SESQUICENTENNIAL

PROGRAM AND HISTORY



is a contract of the contract

Something Wonderful

Something wonderful happened today

III hat it was I can't quite say.

It happened in spring

 $oldsymbol{\lambda}$ nd my heart started to sing.

 $oldsymbol{\mathfrak{J}}_{\mathsf{t}}$ sung a song of love

It must have come from above

To have a gift of love.

Hathleen Terescu Idayst

Bellbrook Sesquicentennial

1816 - 1966

Bellbrook is a small village centrally located in Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, at the northwest edge of a small cove. Part of the village lies in the valley, the rest on low hills. Until 1960, its zenith of population seems to have been 502 in 1850. It was 425 in 1950, 939 in 1960, and is estimated to be more than 1300 in 1966. Xenia is eight miles to the northeast. State Route 725, connecting Spring Valley five miles to the east and Centerville four miles west, is the main road giving access to the village.

JUNE 16 – 19, 1966 BELLBROOK, OHIO June 16, 1966 to June 19, 1966, Inclusive

GENERAL CHAIRMAN William H. Penewit

SECRETARY

Genevieve Berryhill

TREASURER

Betta Gifford

STEERING AND OPERATING

CAPITAL COMMITTEE
David Hodson
Evelyn J. Brock
Harold Berryhill
Charlotte Murphy
Ruth Penewit
Robert Saul
Ralph Keating
Anne Foreman
Frederick Herbst

William Penewit



Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Bellbrook Sescuicentennial. You are warmly invited to join us as we break pace with the Space Age for a few days to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of our village.

June 16-19 has been designated as the official time of the celebration, but there has been a note of excitement on the air for several months now as preparations have gone on. The general committee is grateful to the many groups and individuals who have worked long and hard to make this a fitting celebration. It has been a big job. As General Chairman, I wish to extend thanks to every person who has had a part in this community effort.

We are especially grateful to Harold and Genevieve Berryhill, whose long months of painstaking research have produced this fine history, which we think you will enjoy.

It is a rich and spirited history. We owe a great debt to those hardy people who cleared the land, built the town, established the schools and churches; and to those who later struggled to maintain and improve them. The job is ours now, the history ours to make. We hope to be refreshed by this look at the past, to come from it united, determined, and ready to look at the future.

But the first order of business is to celebrate in style. You can bet that is what our ancestors would have done.

Sincerely.

William Penewit

General Chairman

William Peneront

OFFICE OF THE Mayor of Bellbrook

BELLBROOK, OHIO 45305

MAYOR David C. Hodson

COUNCIL
Charles E. Niehaus,
President Pro Tempore
Samuel M. Anderson
Robert E. Barley
Betty F. Borden
Betta L. Gifford
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PLANNING COMMISSION John E. Black David L. Holmes Harold L. Puckett

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Erwin A. Luedtke

FIRE DEPARTMENT Leo H. Schlater, Chief Paul W. Glotfelter, Assistant Chief

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT Lee Roger Jones

SOLICITOR Philip Aultman TO THE CITIZENS AND FRIENDS OF BELLBROOK:

As Mayor of the Village of Bellbrook, I extend a welcome from the "Official Family" of the village to our 1966 Sesquicentennial.

The one hundred and fifty year history of this community reveals many changes and advancements accomplished by its citizens through its local government. Traditionally, the people of Bellbrook have recognized their needs, and have responded in a spirit of cooperation and dedication with little need for reliance on outside sources for the solving of local problems.

While rightfully proud of their many accomplishments in this modern era, the residents of this community can also be proud of having retained much of the natural beauty of the area, as well as many historical sites and traditions.

It is our hope that the future will be met with a continuation of the spirit and traditions of the past.

David C. Hodson, Mayor

Thanks

The history committee would like to thank all those people who have given of their time, knowledge and treasured pictures and clippings in order that we might share with everyone the heritage of our village.

We would also like to thank the businessmen, organizations and friends who have given their financial support through advertising in this book.

Many thanks to those listed below especially, for their patience and time with us.

Judge Charles Lee Mills

Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Howland

Mr. John Morris

Mrs. Ralph White

Mr. Raymond Higgins

Mr. Roland Kinder

Mr. Roy Kinder

Mrs. Daisy Lansinger

Mrs. Dorothy Hook

Mrs. J. R. Penewit

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Stephens

Mrs. John Werner III

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Swanstrom

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Wright

Mrs. Ralph Hopkins

Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Tate

Mr. Orley Peterson

Mr. Waldo Elliott

Mrs. Andrew Edgington

Mrs. Arthur Edgington

Mr. Samuel Bowles

Mrs. Ina Black

Mr. Carl Schwartz

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Huston

Mrs. C. C. Graf

Mrs. Grace Ritenour

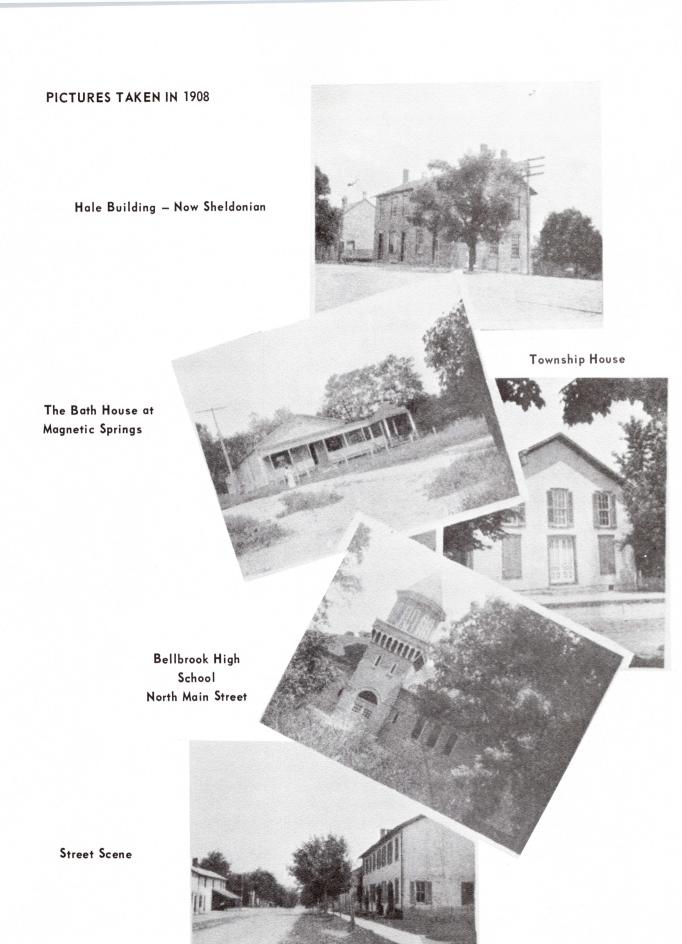
Mrs. William Byrd

Mrs. Ethel Johnson

Mrs. Hugh McDiarmid

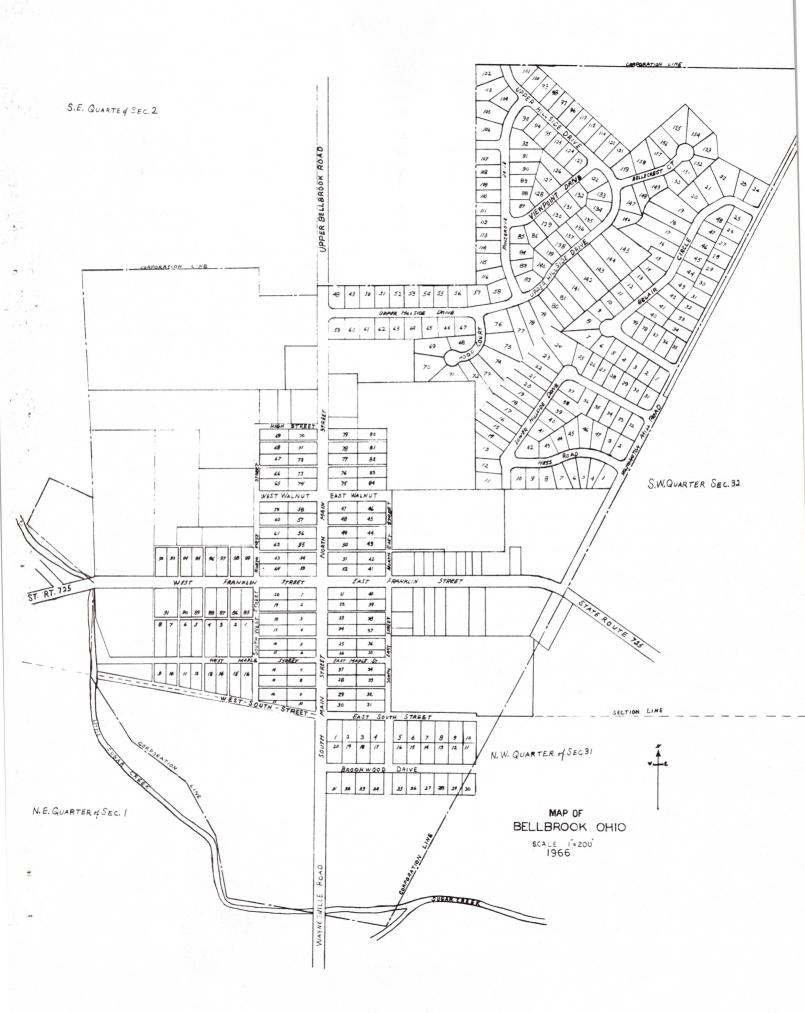
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Peterson

Harold Berryhill Genevieve Berryhill Klaussy Getered





Aerial View of Bellbrook - 1926



Founders and Early Settlers

The pioneers who braved the wilderness to make their homes in the densely wooded land that later became the Bellbrook area came mostly from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, although many of the very first settlers lived a few years in Kentucky before moving on to Ohio.

Stephen Bell, after whom the town was named, was born in New Jersey, August 18, 1774, and married Miss Hannah Scudder in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, in 1795. They were the parents of eleven children. Mr. Bell was a millwright. He moved to Greene County with his family around 1812 and he and Henry Opdyke bought 227 acres of Jacob Snowden in 1815.

It was the southeast corner of this tract that they platted that year to form the western part of Bellbrook. He is thought to have lived a few years in the present house at 120 North Main Street.

Bell was a millwright, Justice of the Peace, Greene County Commissioner from 1822 to 1826, and State Representative in 1818. After his wife's death in 1838, he moved to Springfield, Ohio, where he was president of the city council in 1845. Mr. Bell died November 14, 1852, and was buried in a vault in Greenmount Cemetery, Springfield. His coffin was a type that permitted the face to be viewed by sliding the top around in some manner. An article in the Bellbrook *Moon* of 1893 gives a description of how he appeared forty years after his death. When his remains had to be removed in 1927 because of the straightening of a Springfield street, some of his descendants had them reinterred in the Bellbrook Cemetery. There are some known descendants of his, but none by the Bell name.

Henry Opdyke was also a native of New Jersey, where he was born in 1774. He moved to Ohio sometime after 1800 and lived on a farm west of Bellbrook. He helped with the platting of Bellbrook but evidently had sold his interest to Stephen Bell for he is never mentioned on the deeds in connection with the sale of lots. Bell built a sawmill for him at the west edge of present Bellbrook and a gristmill a mile up Little Sugarcreek. Opdyke accidently met his death in 1825, when a mattock fell on his head while he was at the bottom of a well. Before his death, he had built the present brick house on the Ba-Te-Yo-Ca Camp property. There are known descendants of his but their names are not Opydke.

James Clancey, a native of Virginia, came to the Bellbrook area before 1803. He was a tavern keeper and farmer, owning around 600 acres, possibly in partnership with Joseph Vance. Either tiring of this area or thinking to improve his position in life, Mr. Clancey moved to Indiana around 1820 and died there a year or two later at Flat Rock, some distance south of Shelbyville. His son James later became a doctor and died here in 1849. There are no known descendants of his.

Jeremiah Gest was a native of New Jersey and one of the first merchants of Bellbrook. He is listed in the census of 1820 and died here at Bellbrook in 1879. Always a resident of the Bellbrook area, he was identified with farming, milling and other business interests. All of his sons moved from this area. One son, Joseph G. Gest, was a prosecuting attorney of Greene County and a state representative. He was an attorney at Xenia, lived on a large farm west of Spring Valley, and was interested in a large flouring mill at Schnebly Road and State Route 725.

Benjamin F. Allen was a native of Centerville, Ohio, who in partnership with others, was identified with business interests here at Bellbrook from 1838 to 1867. He operated a general store in the old part of the present Penewit Hardware and lived in the brick house that is now the home of David and Mary Barnet. He also operated the pork packing business in a brick building on the site of the present township house.





A sturdy log cabin with one room, one door, one window and a log fireplace lined with clay was the first building on the site of the village of Bellbrook. It was the home of a youth who wore a linsey shirt and held up his buckskin britches with knit galluses. Remembered as a typical pioneer boy driving an oxcart on the Pinckney Road, he would one day be Governor.

Greene County histories agree that Joseph C. Vance erected the cabin in the spring of the year 1797 in the area southeast of the present corner of Main and Walnut Streets. Mr. Vance did not live here long. Appointed director of the county seat August 3, 1803, he soon

afterward laid out Xenia and a few years later, Urbana. He was the father of Joseph Vance, Governor of Ohio, 1837 - 39.

The Vance cabin soon passed into the hands of a James Clancey who is said to have used it as a kitchen for a two-story log tavern located in the same area. It was at the house of James Clancey that the first election in Sugarcreek Township was held June 21, 1803. Later Mr. Clancey is thought to have erected a large two-story frame tavern, the only building in Bellbrook when the town was platted in 1816.

The tavern and eventually the village were centrally located in Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio. The first settlement in the township and also in the county had been made on April 7, 1796, when John Wilson or some of his sons erected a temporary shelter of poles and logs, then cleared about three acres and planted some corn. This twelve-foot square shelter and the clearing were located south of Middle Run Road and Creek and east of Haines Road in the southern part of the township, very near the Warren County line. Later that year three cabins were built near the present Ferry Church of Christ: one to the west for Daniel Wilson, one to the north for George Wilson, and one to the east for Amos Wilson, all sons of John. These were occupied the following year.

Sugarcreek Township, located in the southwest corner of Greene County, was laid off by the associate judges May 10, 1803. One of the four original townships of the county, it originally extended nearly to the present Xenia and beyond New Burlington. It was reduced to its present size when Spring Valley Township was formed in 1856. Greene County, named for General Nathaniel Greene of Revolutionary War fame, became a county March 24, 1803, after Ohio had entered the Union on March 1 of the same year.

THE PINCKNEY ROAD

The Clancey tavern was located on what was for a few years the most important road into the Greene County area. The road was first called the Pinckney Road, later the Lebanon-Urbana Road and finally the Lebanon Road. It took its original name from a hamlet, mill and pond in the present Trebeins area. The road or trail extended from there past the first Greene County Court House, south of Alpha, generally followed the present Alpha-Bellbrook Road to Bellbrook, proceeded southwest along the present Ferry Road to Lytle in Warren County and on to Lebanon.

This was as short a route as any from the Urbana-Springfield area to Cincinnati and was superior to most since there weren't as many hills and the little Miami River didn't have to be forded. At that time most travel originated or terminated at Cincinnati, the commercial center of this part of the Northwest Territory.

When Xenia had become firmly established as the county seat and a state road had been laid out between Lebanon and Springfield through Xenia, the importance of the Pinckney Road began to decline. Much more travel was diverted when the canal was completed to Dayton in 1829, and with the completion of the Little Miami Railroad to Xenia and Springfield in the 1840's, the day of most long distance travel by horse-drawn vehicle had ended.

THE TOWN IS PLATTED

The significance of the Clancey Tavern, located on an important road and at the center of the township, went beyond its reputation for food, drink, and warmth. Early township history clustered around this establishment. Elections were held here, business transacted, and people would gather to hear news of the outside world from travelers on the Pinckney Road or, occasionally, a sermon by a visiting preacher.

Since the area was some distance from any town and a sort of center of activities, three men — Stephen Bell, Henry Opdyke, and James Clancey — decided to plat a town. This was a project very much in style at that time, as the many sesquicentennials being celebrated during the 1960's will attest. Bell and Opdyke owned land west of present-day Main Street and James Clancey east of it. During the summer of 1815, they had a town plat of 84 lots surveyed.

The tradition is that a great deal of discussion was required to select a name. However, once Henry Opdyke had suggested Bellbrook, the "Bell" in honor of Stephen Bell and "brook" from the small creek that flows through the present Bellbrock Park, it is said to have been instantly adopted. During September of that year the following ad appeared in the "Ohio Vehicle" published at Xenia and the "Ohio Republican" published at Dayton.

NOTICE

The subscribers having laid out the Town of Bellbrook in the County of Greene, Sugar Creek Township, on the great road that leads by James Clancey's tavern, leading from Lebanon to Urbana, and where the road crosses leading from Franklin to Wilmington. The lots in said town will be sold to the highest bidder on Saturday, the 7th day of October, ensuing. The terms of the sale will be made known on the day of the sale. The situation of the town is healthy and convenient to springs which can be easily conveyed through the town. Saw and grist mills within a mile. Adjoining town lands is a stream of water on which all kinds of machinery may be erected.

Stephen Bell Henry Opdyke James Clancey

September 19, 1815

The Greene County histories relate that Aaron Nutt of Centerville was the auctioneer. He was noted for the variety of his jokes and witty anecdotes. There was usually an ample supply of liquid refreshment at such occasions, and a lively day was reported.

It might seem that the Bellbrook Sesquicentennial should have been celebrated in 1965; however, the town is considered to have existed from the date that its plat was recorded rather than the date of the sale. Dayton papers of the period reveal that there were many ads every year for projected towns. An ad for the town of Fairfield appeared in 1815; its plat was not recorded until after that of Bellbrook, although its auction sale of lots was held earlier. An auction of lots in the town of Ludlow in Greene County, adjoining the noted Yellow Springs on the north, was advertised in 1818, but there is no recorded plat of this town in Greene County Court records. Other examples of this type suggest that if the lots didn't sell, the proprietors didn't bother to have the plat recorded. So some lots must have sold that October 7, 1815, or the plat of Bellbrook would not have been recorded February 10, 1816. That day the map and certificate on following page was recorded in Deed Book 3, page 471.

All the lots were sixty-six feet wide and one hundred sixty-five feet long, except lots 10 and 11. The widths of streets and alleys are indicated on the map.

At the time of the platting, the Clancey Tavern on Lot 47 was the only house in the proposed town. The lots are said to have sold in numerical order. Lot 1, the present location of the Penewit Hardware and Dave Barnet Appliances, was deeded to David Cramer by Stephen Bell in 1818 for \$60. No deed seems to be recorded for Lot 21, the site of the present Sheldonian. Lot 52, on the Northeast corner of Main and Franklin, was deeded to William T. Berryhill by James Clancey in 1817 for \$58.

Lot 53, the present location of Marvin Barnet's stucco building and the firehouse, was deeded to James Webb by Stephen Bell in 1817 for \$43. It was on this lot that Webb is said to have built the first house in the new town of Bellbrook. It was a frame house facing Main Street. Webb's blacksmith shop was on the same lot.

Others soon built homes, and the census of 1820 listed sixteen families and a population of 83.

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Clos cal Browns Recorder of Greene County

The population of Sugarcreek Township was 1880 people that year, but it should be remembered that its area was twice as large as today. In 1830, Bellbrook had thirty-three families and a population of one hundred eighty-nine.

The first addition to the village was made by Stephen Bell in 1830, when a plat of fifteen lots, numbered 85 to 99, was added to the original plat on both sides of West Franklin Street. The second addition was a plat of sixteen lots on both sides of West Maple Street in the southwest part of town by John McClure in 1841. The third addition, eight lots north of High Street and west of Main, was platted by A. B. Hopkins in 1849. John C. Murphy sold lots or acreage on both sides of East Franklin Street during the 1840's, but this was never platted.

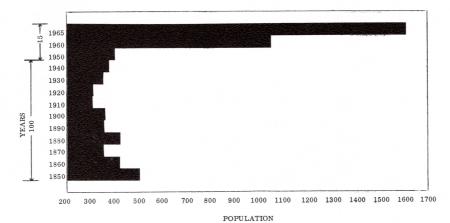
One hundred years later, in 1950, Claude and Hattie Barnett recorded a plat of thirty lots south of South Street and east of Main. All of these lots have houses of frame and brick construction with basements. Gagel Construction Company of Dayton recorded a plat of forty-seven lots called Bellbrook Farms in 1954. This development is located in the northeast part of town, west of the Washington Mill Road. The houses are all one-floor plan, with slab floors and shingle siding.

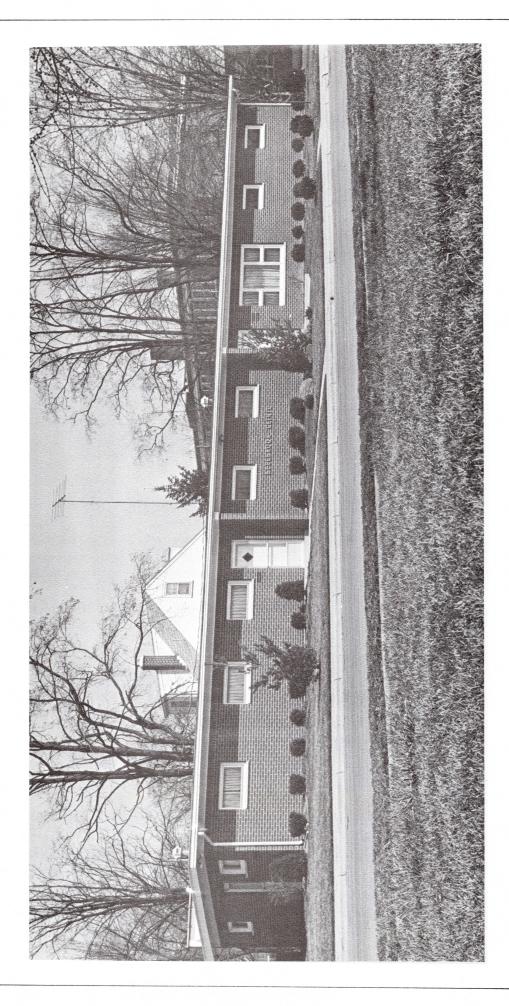
The same company continued building this type of house on Upper Hillside Drive. More recently, another company has been building frame and brick houses, with and without basements and of more than one story. There are a total of 112 lots in this addition on the hill. Harold Plat of forty-eight lots was recorded by E & S Construction Company of Dayton in 1957. All of these lots have one-floor-plan houses. One house has a basement. This plat is in the very northeast part of town, west of Washington Mill Road.

As noted before, Bellbrook had increased from eighty-three people in 1820 to one hundred eighty-nine in 1830. After this growth, some began to discuss incorporating the village. Dr. William Bell and Robert E. Patterson suggested to Dr.. William Frazier that he draft a petition to the State legislature seeking to incorporate the Village of Bellbrook. Many of the residents signed the petition, it was favorably acted upon by the legislature, and Bellbrook was duly incorporated February 13, 1832. This was sixteen years after its plat was recorded in 1816. The first officers were William Bigger, Mayor; Abner G. Luce, Treasurer; and Silas Hale, Marshall.

Bellbrook in 1820, with a population of eighty-three, would have had a rather rustic appearance to a traveler: very much so to a traveler of the 1960's. Since there were just sixteen families, it is reasonable to assume there weren't any more houses. Many were of log and the rest were frame of a modest size. The Greene County auditor's tax list of 1825 seems to be the earliest record of the valuation of houses and lots. If the amount listed for tax purposes means anything as to size, the Clancey Tavern, or the building that had been the tavern, was valued more than twice as high as the next most valuable. There were some barns to shelter the horses and other livestock. In 1830, with 189 people and thirty-three families, the appearance would be larger, but still small and primitive to a person of today. Two large store buildings were at Main and Franklin and there were twice as many homes as in 1820.

The town grew rapidly during the next two decades, reaching the peak of its population in 1850 with 502 people. If the Greene County histories are correct about this figure, it was never surpassed until 1960. The population was 369 in 1870; 425 in 1880; 352 in 1900; and the low seems to have been 238 in 1910. It is reasonable to assume there were as many houses in 1850 as there were in 1950 and probably many more business buildings.





Compliments of

THE BELLBROOK CLINIC



"We're Proud To Be A Part Of Bellbrook's Past, Present, And Future"

Bellbrook Lions Club

CHARTERED APRIL 14, 1947

WILLIAM H. PENEWIT

1965-66 Pres.

JOHN RONEY 1st Vice Pres. CLYDE SHEPHERD 2nd Vice Pres.

ROBERT MILLS 3rd Vice Pres.

LYLE BENHAM

SHERMAN LAWSON Treasurer

Secretary GORDON ASHWORTH

Director

REID KEITER Director

LAWRENCE BAGFORD Director

JAMES LINVILLE

HIRAM GIFFORD Tail Twister

Lion Tamer

PAST PRESIDENTS

Irvin Snyder Morgan Weber James T. Carback Carl A. Wright Lewis W. Joyner Jacob S. Scott

John Black Lawson Ordean Carl J. Wright G. C. Elliott Paul R. Thomas J. C. Penewit

Joe Laycock Lyle Benham Philip Coon Richard Sackett Scott Hopkins George Stiles



RD Rowspa

1855

RP Hoynes

Brick Yard

School House

S.Clancey

eet White

Old VIII »

W.BRANCH OF SUCAR CREEK

As in most villages started a century or more ago, nearly all the houses were located on the corner of the lot, as close to the street as possible. The reason seems to have been that this arrangement left more room for a small barn, woodhouse, a garden, and maybe another building or two of consequence to pioneer America.

Livestock was not confined too closely. Ordinances were passed by the town council in 1870 for-bidding hogs, geese and other livestock from running at large. Later in the year, however, a motion was passed permitting a hog to run at large if a ring was properly placed in its nose. To prevent livestock damage, every lot had to have a fence of some sort. Some type of rail fence was probably first, followed by different types of board and picket fences. Later wire fence appeared and there were some iron fences along front lawns. With the coming of the automobile, most horses soon disappeared and nearly all livestock was gone by the end of World War II.

The first streets were raw earth. During wet spells and the spring thaw, wagons and other rigs would stick and mire in the rutted hazardous mud, at times all but impassable. Slowly they were improved, at first perhaps by throwing some logs or limbs crossways in the worst places. After the town was incorporated, some gravel was probably hauled every year until all the streets were blacktopped. The earliest council books known, those of 1869, show sums spent for perches of gravel. Culverts and bridges have been made first of wood, then of stone, tile, cement and metal until today a person hardly realizes that they are there.

Since dust had become a problem when the auto appeared after the turn of the century, parts of Main and Franklin Streets were oiled in 1911 and the lot owners charged according to their frontage. If they didn't pay, the bill was added to their taxes. Blacktopping was started in 1924. Most of Main and Franklin Streets were blacktopped in 1928, as were State Route 725 and the Wilmington Road. The quality of the surfacing material has improved with the years and all the streets and most of the alleys are blacktopped now.

An ordinance requiring the construction of cement sidewalks on parts of Main and Franklin streets was passed in 1902. Many property owners protested this action, but the sidewalks were constructed that year and the next. They must have met with approval for some of the residents of Maple Street soon petitioned the council to establish grade lines for sidewalks on that street. Cement sidewalks succeeded a variety of paths of mother earth, gravel, brick and flat stones from creeks and fields. There may have been boardwalks, too, for many people had them to various buildings on their own lots during the forepart of this century.



Mr. and Mrs. George Soward, before 1879. Penewit Hardware Building in background.

In 1878 twelve street lights using "coal oil" were erected; most of the time kerosene lighted the pedestrian during the night until the advent of electricity. In 1894, Oliver Watson was awarded the contract to light seventeen street lamps at his bid of \$64.00 for the year. He was to have charge of the oil, was to fill the lamps, to trim the wicks, to keep the globes cleaned and to set the lamps to burn eight hours. At times the period the lights were on was determined by the change of the moon. On a clear moonlight night, it is supposed the lights were turned out or not lighted at all. On August 30, 1915, the Dayton Power and Light Company was awarded a contract to light the streets of Bellbrook with twelve lamps at \$36.00 a month. Previously, on June 17, 1915, the council passed a motion to allow the Dayton Power and Light Company to erect poles and wires and furnish electricity to the village. Joseph L. Myers, H. A. Davis, John Anthony and Jonas Whitacre favored this motion, but John Canning and Walter Killian voted against electricity for the village.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

During the early days of the automobile, left turns were made by driving to the right of a traffic post or beacon erected by most towns in the center of their main intersections. Bellbrook had such a post and some of the time there was a blinker in it. As other towns began to get traffic lights, the Bellbrook council contracted the fever and, keeping up with the "Jones," they purchased a present-type traffic light in 1931. Franklin Street became a part of the State Highway system in the 1930's. Hitching racks for horses had disappeared during the 1920's except the one east of Marvin Barnet's Colonial shop which survived to World War II. Cars were parked without any system until the forty-five degree angle on the right side of the street was adopted in the business part of town in the 1930's. The present system of parallel parking, in use since World War II, was brought about by increased traffic, longer cars and probably the fact that cities and other towns had adopted this method. Shortly after Charles Peterson, the present Police Chief, was appointed in 1936, he operated a motorcycle to apprehend speeders and other violators and to escort them before the mayor for trial. Painting of traffic lines on streets made its appearance at the end of World War II although some lines had been painted on State Route 725 earlier. Stop signs were in use about the same time. Street markers were erected in the 1950's.

UTILITIES

Telephones in Bellbrook are mentioned in some papers published in 1883, but they certainly were in very limited use. Though the history of their improvement is vague, it is safe to say there were many here by 1900. There were two phone companies, the Bell and the Home, serving the community during the first two decades of this century. After the Bell system exchange burned in the fire of 1919, the switchboard was located in a small building where the bank is now. Dial service was inaugurated in 1941.

As mentioned before, electricity arrived in town in 1915. The power line came from Xenia by way of Spring Valley. In 1922, the council passed an ordinance granting the Ohio Fuel Gas Company the right to lay lines to supply natural gas. A municipal water system using transite pipe was installed in 1950. Prior to that time, individual wells and cisterns had supplied each home and had generally given satisfaction. The increasing consumption of water due to the installation of bathrooms and the need for a better supply of water in the event of a fire resulted in the demand for a municipal system. Two wells in the southwest corner of town supply the water.

NEWSPAPERS

Four weekly newspapers are known to have been published at Bellbrook: the Bellbrook MAGNET: the Bellbrook MOON; the $GOOD\ NEWS$; and the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek POST. If there were any others, they have been lost to memory.

The Bellbrook MAGNET made its appearance in October, 1883. The Magnetic Springs Company founded the paper with E. L. Tiffany as publisher and John L. Elcook as editor. Since no copies seem to have survived, the little we know about it is from references in the Xenia paper. The Magnetic Company soon tired of its venture into the newspaper field and sold the assets to C. M. Fudge, better known as "Morg" or Morgan Fudge, one of the town's most colorful characters.

Mr. Fudge immediately changed the name to Bellbrook MOON, though why he selected such a lunar title is not known. The first edition appeared June 24, 1885. It is said the following appeared in the editorial column of the first issue: "Independent and printed every week for the benefit of the proprietor." This statement was often repeated and the following appeared at various times, too: "Twenty

old newspapers at this office for five cents;" "Hog ears and livers taken on subscriptions;" "Pipes smoked before the Civil War will not be tolerated in this office;" "The MOON gets full once a week and so does the editor." It is said the editor occasionally got so full that the MOON didn't come out that week. A few copies published by Fudge are in existence today and contain a great deal of interesting local news. One column titled "Moon Beams" was composed of very short items of general interest. Mr. Fudge, either tiring of the newspaper business or feeling there were better paying enterprises, sold the paper to John H. Racer, October 28, 1891.

MOONBEAMS

James Crowl, our enterprising livery man, has put a large tank in the second story of his barn (Barnet's storage on North Main). Jim wants pressure for washing buggies without manipulating the handle of his force pump.

Three saloons in Bellbrook at this time. (1899)

Drunks are getting to be quite common here. Too much for comfort and pleasure to many.

Cigarette smokers will confer a favor upon the post-office crew, if they will leave the stinking things out of doors when they come for their mail.

At least 20 street lamps will be placed in suitable places in the town.

Mr. Racer owned and managed it for ten years with several different editors. Before purchasing the "MOON," as head of the Racer Hedge Fence Company, he had planted, grown and trimmed hedge fences for farmers; and he continued that business while he owned the paper. Soon after acquiring the "MOON," Mr. Racer printed biographical sketches of local pioneers, and reminiscences of many older people appeared during his ownership. This historical material helped his circulation since it was of interest to many people who had moved from the area. At one time, the MOON had a circulation of nearly a thousand and was sent to thirty-two states. It is to these biographical sketches and reminiscences that we owe our description of how Bellbrook appeared a century ago. Most of these articles were pasted in scrapbooks by members of the Gem City Bellbrook Club and two sets of scrapbooks have survived to this day. Too fragile to be handled much, they are not available to the general public.

- J. F.. Newland acquired the MOON in 1901 and managed it until 1905. Later another man or two owned it for a brief period, and the MOON set permanently in 1905 or 1906. In later years, articles and advertisements of state and national interest were printed on the two outside pages, with local news on the two inner pages. The first subscription price was \$1.00 per year. It was reduced to 50¢ per year, although that price didn't pay the cost of publication. Mr. Newland's final article says that all the proprietors had been in debt to every one who would lend them money and he was getting another job.
- Rev. R. A. Hartman of the Bellbrook Presbyterian Church circulated a mimeographed paper called the GOOD NEWS during some of the 1930's. Religious news was on the first page, school news on the interior pages, and local news on the back page. The journalism class of Bellbrook High School printed the paper. Subscription rate was 50¢ a year.

The present local weekly paper, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek *POST*, was launched on Wednesday, May 19, 1965. The publisher is Sugarcreek News, Inc., a corporation formed by local residents. Officers are Dale Render, President; Chris Mitsoff, Vice-President and General Manager; Mrs. Hugh McDiarmid, Secretary-Treasurer. Directors are Render, Mitsoff, Charles Thomas, Charles Billings and Dr. Charles Dille. Mrs. Hugh McDiarmid is the editor. Subscription rates are \$3.75 a year or 10¢ a copy. Most of the articles pertain to local problems and school news.

MAGNETIC SPRINGS

The liveliest 20 years in Bellbrook's history were introduced on June 20, 1883, when the Xenia *TORCHLIGHT* reported that Andrew Byrd had found a magnetic spring in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. The old country town was to have a fling.

Three months later, the TORCHLIGHT reported that "old Bellbrook" had given way to "a new town, pulsing with life, busy as a mining camp that had 'struck it rich'. The old hills looked new, the old familiar houses seemed to gather to themselves a strange dignity of countenance that had but a

squint of former humility and sly recognition for old acquaintances. The good citizens, who long ago had settled down to the quiet evening time of life, seemed to freshen into spring-time again, and walked about the old familiar places introducing plug-hatted and dress-coated gentlemen to the historical points and desirable building lots. Splendid equipages and fine horses, mingled with the quieter styles of country vehicles about the large building now covering the famous well, and every one had from two to three jugs in them. Jugs, jugs, little brown jugs, big brown jugs, old gray corpulent jugs and fancy jugs, new and old jugs, seven or eight hundred jugs per day filled from the exhaustless well. The building inside is now furnished with chairs, sofas, writing-tables and most beautiful bouquets, and the rooms are filled by well-clothed loungers from all parts of the country. The basement is fitted with bathrooms opening from these apartments. The attendants have all they can do to supply the demand for water and baths, and the building is constantly thronged with bustling humanity, and afflicted invalids representing all conditions of human ailments and diseases. Restaurants with flaming signs swinging in the air, and across the streets, booths and stands spring up like camp-meeting groceries, and the air is filled by the cry 'here's your nice, cool, magnetic watermelons'.''

When the congregation of the United Presbyterian Church on the northeast corner of Main and Walnut Streets had decided to discontinue services there, the building had been for sale some time before it was purchased by Andrew Byrd in 1883. He planned to convert it into an apartment house. It was during the remodeling that Robert Butler, the plasterer, discovered that his tools, left in the water overnight, would pick up nails and other bits of iron and steel. Whether the workman had dug a new well or just found that an old one was magnetized is not clear.

For centuries many types of springs had given rise to health resorts for the sick and crippled. Drinking and bathing in the water of mineral, magnetic, and warm springs were believed to be beneficial and able to cure many ills. So, with the discovery of a magnetic springs here in Bellbrook, enthusiasm and excitement soon rose to a high pitch. Reports of authorities engaged by Mr. Byrd to analyze the water sounded very impressive; and the ailing, the curious, and the skeptical flocked here in increasing numbers to drink the water and bathe.

Crude facilities had been set up to accommodate those who wished to take the baths; and everyone was invited to drink freely of the water, an invitation still extended by the sign in Bellbrock Park. At any rate the first two gallons were free; after that the price was five cents a gallon until January 1, 1884. Invalids were accommodated at \$5.00 a week for board and lodging. The August 24, 1883, issue of the Xenia SEMI-WEEKLY GAZETTE reported that Ohmers of Dayton had bought the property. Also that fully 1500 gallons of water were taken away from the well in jugs on Sunday, besides the immense amount drunk and wasted, yet the water in the well was four feet deep in the evening.

The following newspaper articles give a good description of the water, the people, and the excitement during the first year of the existence of the Magnetic Springs.

"Friday August 10, 1883 — Xenia SEMI-WEEKLY GAZETTE. Bellbrook Magnetic Springs. Its water continues to be the sensation of the neighborhood. A Bellbrook correspondent of the Dayton HERALD has this to say about the newly discovered Mineral Spring at Bellbrook. The bathing powers of this water is wonderfully healing. Persons who have bathed in the principal magnetic waters of this country say that this water is superior to any they ever saw. A prickling sensation is experienced by the bather as soon as he enters the water, very much similar to the sensation caused by a small electric battery when one is receiving a shock. Another strange feature of the water is that no soap is needed to furnish a lather as the water itself produces the same substance. The village has been thronged with invalids suffering from various diseases and all are receiving wonderful and speedy cures. Several severe cases of rheumatism have almost been cured up to the present time and the patients continue to improve. Your correspondent has known one gentleman afflicted with St. Vitus dance in its worst form and for the last few months unable to walk, was seen the other day walking in his yard and about the street. His nerves are still unsteady, but the twitch and jerk of the body have left him and he is fast improving by bathing in and drinking this water. Quite a number of people from all parts of the State visited this new and popular resort last Sunday. The register at the Springs House showing a list of 875 and for the last two weeks it is found by the register over 3,500 have visited this wonderful and romantic little village."

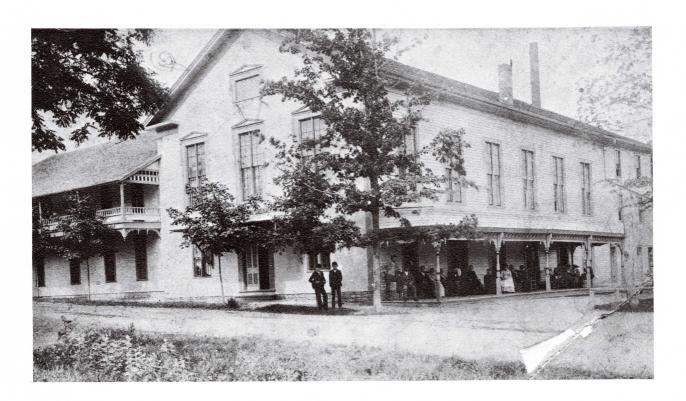
"The owner gave but \$600 for the property, has already spent about a thousand changing the building into a sort of a sanitarium and a good deal more will need to be spent to complete the improvements. He has been offered \$3,000 but will not sell for less than \$5,000. He has a considerable fortune besides and claims it will be worth a \$1,000 a year to his invalid son and if he cannot get his price will keep it for his own use and for benefit of the community."

"August 29, 1883 — TORCHLIGHT reports that there were over 5,000 people in Bellbrook Sunday August 26 and prints an article from the Dayton JOURNAL. — 'A gentleman who visited Bellbrook on Sunday reported a day remarkable in the extreme. All the streets were crowded with buggies and carriages. The visitors had consumed all the rations which the town contained and many were unable to procure food of any sort. One informant says he does not believe a slice of bread as large as his hand could have been procured for love or money. The citizens had actually been eaten out of house and home. It is wonderful the amount of good the Bellbrook Magnetic water is doing'."

"August 31, 1883 — Interest in the magnetic well is unabated. Xenia reporter on the road to Bell-brook met people returning and a number arrived after—we—did.—They come—from—all—directions and whether sick or well, partake freely of the water and it is amusing to see the expressions of face with which they swallow it. Some turn up their noses, some open wide their eyes, some close them tight, while not a few look as though water was a new drink to them, but all act as though they ought to feel an immediate shock of improved health. The Gazette man found himself thinking his digestion improved before he had finished the first cup full. Those who get it by the jug-full go off with a wink, as though it contained a fluid which had a peculiar effect upon the optic nerves. From Mr. Nick Ohmer, the proprietor, we learn that the properties of the water do not escape after it comes from the well, that they are not of gaseous nature and therefore remain in the water. A casual mental analysis of the water leads us to suppose, iron, magnetic qualities and imagination were the principal ingredients, all most important factors in any medicinal article, and the latter is by no means the least important. The magnetic well will be a "well spring" of prosperity for Bellbrook. The Crowl boys fed over 1,000 horses Sunday."

"The report circulated in the papers that the crowds cannot be accommodated with plenty to eat, is false, for except the first Sunday, plenty of provisions has been provided for all, and no one need fear to go to Bellbrook now, for the hotel, restaurants and feed stables are sufficiently ample."

"Strangers naturally ask, what is the water doing? Well, look at the invalids here, there go men up and down these rural streets, representing the wealth of our neighboring cities, there are ladies and gentlemen of intelligence, from great distances, drinking and bathing, every day, ask any one of them and they will tell you the same old story that has been so repeatedly told: "I am greatly benefited. I know I am getting well."



Magnetic Springs Hotel

A PROGRESSIVE BANK

SALUTES

A PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY

"Old Fashion Courtesy With Modern Services"



SINCE 1881
COMPLETE BANKING SERVICES

BELLBROOK BRANCH

ROBERT E. SAUL, SR. Assistant Cashier Branch Manager MEMBER FDIC.
DEPOSITS INSURED
TO \$10,000.00

WE

ARE

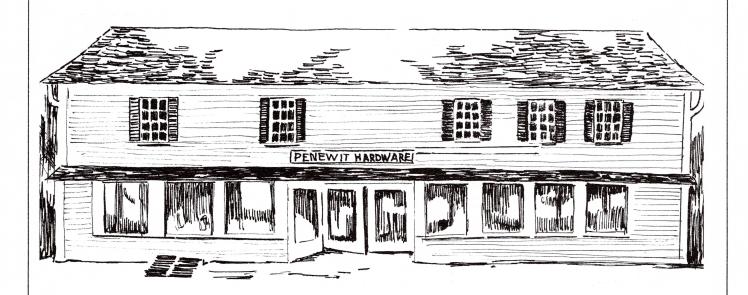
PROUD . . TO SERVE



150 YEARS FOR BELLBROOK
41 YEARS FOR

PENEWIT HARDWARE

BELLBROOK'S OLDEST BUSINESS



The church building was enlarged, steam heat was installed, and when it burned the night of July 9, 1893, it was described as a seventy-room hotel. From the newspaper account it was a spectacular fire, endangering the entire town. It is thought that a long, plain one-story house, used for bathing purposes until some time after 1900, was built on the site soon after the ashes cooled. The granite-covered portable tubs were stacked in one room of this building when it was used for school purposes in 1912. The next year it burned while being used as a residence by a son of Cincinnati Councilman Michael Mullins.



Bellbrook Inn

After the Magnetic Springs hotel had burned, there was a great clamor for another hotel. In a remarkably short time after the ground was broken, a new thirty-room hotel, known as the Bellbrook Inn, was completed on the site of the present Brookside Garage at the southeast corner of Main and Walnut Streets. Its opening was celebrated July 27, 1896, with a balloon ascension, bands, dancing, hay rides, fireworks, and other types of celebrations, possibly including stronger refreshment than magnetic water.

The Bellbrook Inn, never a financial success, burned the morning of November 25, 1906.

The only reminder of one of Bellbrook's most historic periods is the cement canopy, erected for Councilman Michael Mullin of Cincinnati over the famed well, now in Bellbrock Park. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gail Borden is a greatly remodeled dance pavilion erected in 1896 by the owners of the Bellbrook Inn. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Devlin was originally a barn that stabled the horses of the owners of the grounds and the wine cellar is still along Borden's Drive, now known as Pavilion Lane.



Lobby of the Bellbrook Inn

SLEEPY TOM

The only nationally known native of Bellbrook happens to have been a horse. Sleepy Tom, a pacer who set a world's record of 2:12½ at Chicago, July 25, 1879, was foaled in the schoolhouse yard on North Main Street in Bellbrook. One article says that the event occurred June 22, 1868.

So many articles have been written about "Sleepy Tom" that it is hard to separate fact from fiction. A book written about him by Dwight Akers is interesting, but fictional. As recently as July 18, 1965, an article by Fred F. Marshall appeared in the Columbus DISPATCH, with the only known picture of him. Local people always referred to him as "Blind Tom" and those who were living here during his lifetime reported that he had been badly mistreated, that he had been driven into the river when he was red-hot and covered with lather, and that he had set some local endurance records.

During the racing season the Dayton JOURNAL usually had a short column called "Turf News" reporting the racing news from various tracks. The JOURNAL of July 17, 1879, printed the following article which was taken from the Xenia TORCHLIGHT and seems to be as accurate account of his life as any.

Greene County Produces The Fastest Pacer On The Track

We have been to considerable pains to gather the following history of a horse raised and owned in this county, and who is now bidding fair to be the fastest horse in this country.

Sleepy Tom was toaled on the 22nd day of June, 1868 in the village of Bellbrook this county. His dam was a Sam Hazzard mare, and at the birth of Tom was twenty years of age being then only used for breeding purposes. She was formerly owned by Wm. Simison, who used her for a saddle mare, and was a very fine pacer. Tom's grand dam was old Pocahontas and carried Tom's sire, old Tom Rolf when she made her best time which was 2:17½.

Mr. Isaac Dingler, of Bellbrook, paid \$50 cash for the chance of Tom, and at the age of three years had him trimmed, and put his son Charley to training him on the river bottom track (now the Washington Mill Road), much to the injury of the horse. His first race was on the Dayton Fair Grounds, and against a brown gypsy mare; time 2:55. The best time that Tom ever made while owned by Mr. Dingler was the Piqua races, his opponents being Sleepy George, Nellie Granger, Tom Hendricks and Bay Sally; time 2:22½. Tom commenced going blind while Mr. Dingler was training him on the Dayton track in 1874, caused by too much hard driving, giving him a severe cold, which settled in his eyes.

In the fall of 1875, Clem Beachey of Lebanon, took him and had him "shot out" on 2:48 time. His eyesight at this time was almost entirely gone, and Mr. Dingler concluded that his speed days were over and drew him off the track. Soon after this he sold him to a painter by the name of Millard for a \$125 note, approved by Ephraim Bumgardner. But this man Millard used him brutally, driving him to a sleigh, and on one occasion made him go seventeen miles in seventy minutes, and would have driven him farther had not the civil authorities of Spring Valley stopped and arrested him for fast driving.

At the later part of the sleighing season, Millard drove him to Xenia and traded him to Wm. H. Corry, getting in return a crippled three-year old colt, known as "Gumlastic Bill," a shyster watch and a quart of shot gun whiskey, amounting in all to about \$30.



Mr. Corry owned the horse for sometime, but did not do much with him. All this time though, the eye of Mr. Stephen C. Phillips, his present owner, was upon the horse and Phillips was often known to declare that he would yet possess Sleepy Tom if it took every cent he could rake and scrape together and he finally drove some kind of a bargain with Corry and came into full possession of the horse. Phillips set about immediately in giving him a complete training, and, though during last year's racing he was not very successful, has produced a horse that is a wonder.

Tom won races at Jackson and East Saginaw, Michigan. He won the race at East Saginaw in six heats winning the third, fifth and sixth heats. This is said to be the greatest race on record for six heats, the slowest time in any heat being 2:16½. He won the two first heats at Toledo and was leading in the third when he was bumped by Rowdy Boy and some how Tom got his leg caught in the sulky drawn by Rowdy Boy and was thrown to the ground and lost the heat. Phillips was thrown from his sulky and

had his hand badly injured. The race was postponed until the next day when another driver drove Tom to victory. He then won at Cincinnati and Louisville taking both races in three straight heats. Returning to Xenia, he rested a few days and on Monday last went to Columbus where he will race this week and should he win on this track, he will have won \$2400 in premiums, during this circuit of six races which ends at Columbus. From Columbus Mr. Phillips will take him to Chicago where he will enter him in the "grand circuit."

From the Dayton JOURNAL, July 26, 1879. Chicago, July 25, Weather fine, track fast and enthusiasm great. The first event was the final heat of yesterday's unfinished pacing race. The enthusiasm over this race was very marked. Mattie Hunter had won the first heat, and run a dead heat with Lucy in the second trial, while Sleepy Tom won the third and fourth heats yesterday. The start of the fifth heat today was effected with Tom at the pole and a length ahead of Mattie Hunter, Rowdy Boy, third and Lucy fourth. They went at a tremendous pace, until the half mile in the same order, when Lucy passed Rowdy Boy. At the last turn, Mattie made a grand spurt to pass her blind competitor but he let out his last link and tore down the homestretch and under the wire in 2:12¼, the fastest pacing time on record by two seconds. Mattie Hunter was second by half a length. Time of the entire race is 2:18¼, 2:16½, 2:16 and 2:12¼.

The best test ever made of Tom's endurance was one exceedingly hot day in August 1879, at Rochester, N. Y. when he paced against Mattie Hunter, Rowdy Boy and Lucy, and won the second, fifth and sixth heats in 2:16¼, 2:13½, 2:14. The purse was five thousand dollars and open to all trotters and pacers in the world, and was the largest purse ever offered up to that time for trotters and pacers, the idea being to get Rarus matched against these pacers.

Tom paced some good races in 1880, but after that season, the unmerciful treatment of his younger days and the strenuous campaigns of the last three years began to tell on him. When second-rate horses began to pass him, he was retired from the track.

Steve Phillips sold Tom after he became famous, but the stories disagree about the time of the sale, the price he received, and the name of the purchaser. The articles agree that he died in a barn fire, but disagree as to the location. Tom's record stood for two years, when "Little Brown Jug" lowered it to $2:11\frac{1}{4}$.

INDIANS IN BELLBROOK

After the "Treaty of Greeneville" in 1795, the Indians were allocated lands north of the Indian boundary line, which followed a general east-and-west line across present Mercer, Shelby, Logan and other counties. One by one the different tribes left northwest Ohio until only some Wyandots were still living in this state. They were finally induced to leave their homes near Upper Sandusky and move west to Kansas.

Let Simon Sparks, a native of Bellbrook and a spectator when the Wyandots spent one night in Bellbrook, describe that event:

"The remnants were gathered at their old homes and they performed the last sad rites of the dead. After all were collected, the long train for Cincinnati was taken up and the journey made by easy marches. It being summer, the roads were good. Their supplies were furnished by the Government. On the route, one day in July 1843, after an easy march, they halted and pitched their wigwams, preparing their teams and wagons for a night's rest in all of the southern part of Bellbrook, even to Sugarcreek. The Conestoga wagons were provided with large round white covers fastened at each end with draw ropes. These wagons would carry about 2 tons with safety. Water buckets were used in large numbers for watering their teams and carrying water for cooking purposes. When a halt was ordered it was a sight to see how quick the wagons were unloaded and the wigwams were erected ready for use. Anything with them was good enough to sleep on. A large number of extra horses and some cattle helped to make up the long procession. All the team horses had on bells and when in motion the bells made a beautiful chime, as there was about a dozen of various sizes on each horse. Some of the saddles and harness was very beautiful, being trimmed in gay colors. Several of the chiefs were richly decked out, as they were very fond of gay colors and fine trappings.

The chiefs were quite dignified. Some of them could talk English, and it made us boys laugh to hear them talk and see their antics. About two-thirds of them were full blood Indians, apparently just tamed, and it was quite a novel sight to see the caravan coming over and down the hill on north Main Street, and before us boys hardly knew it, the long train was in full view. As night came on, some of the Indians were preparing to paint the town red, and so they did, so far as the boys were concerned,

especially when they made a dash for us with their heart-rending war whoops. Men and women all cleared out, but the boys were on the streets.

An incident of the evening is worth relating. While Mrs. Coutzman was standing in her front door, one of the Indians ran around the corner, giving one of his hair-raising whoops. She threw up her hands and screamed, falling backwards into the house, thinking sure she was killed. She was terribly frightened but not hurt. Before the Indians left, us boys got over our scare. It was a great sight to us, to watch the papooses tied on a board and put on the back of the mothers. Some of the Indians, the children, both girls and boys, were quite intelligent, and showed the good results of missionary work. They had games and tricks they instructed us in, but we could not get their war whoop, as that was peculiar to them. By seven o'clock the next morning, the great and wonderful caravan had departed never to return. They took a steamer at Cincinnati for their western home."

This article appeared in the Bellbrook MOON of May 22, 1901.

THE FIRST REAPER

On a bright July day in 1844, a footnote to history unfolded in a wheat field near Bellbrook. This was the dramatic day chosen by an area inventor to test his new reaper on a farm now located near the village water tower.

Local people long believed that a Bellbrook man, Jesse Sanders, was the rightful inventor of the reaper, although history does not bear them out. McCormick's machine had been patented in 1834, ten years earlier than the Bellbrook incident.

Nevertheless, articles in both Broadstone's and Robinson's histories of Greene County relate that Sanders invented the first reaper ever used in this country. The reports indicate that Mr. Sanders pondered over the matter of the reaper a great deal and, as time and money offered him the opportunity during the 1840's, worked out his ideas with Ephraim Sparks and Clayton Fryant, both blacksmiths.

The story goes that a stranger, among the crowd of interested spectators in the 1844 demonstration, was especially interested in the working of the machine, asking questions, pointing out defects, and inquiring whether it was patented. People didn't think anything about this man's being so interested, it was remembered, until the McCormick Company of Chicago put out a machine of exactly the same pattern the next year. The local people decided that the friendly and interested stranger had been an agent of that company. Mr. Sanders never realized anything for his invention.

Mr. Sanders undoubtedly invented a reaper to cut wheat, but it is well established that an earlier machine was built by Cyrus H. McCormick while living in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1831 and that it was patented in 1834. McCormick moved to Cincinnati in 1845 and to Chicago, where he began to manufacture reapers on a large scale, in 1847. The Berryhills, Hopkins, Tates, McClures, Steeles and other families moved to Greene County from this Rockbridge area of Virginia and some of them certainly knew Robert McCormick, the father of Cyrus. In 1850, William T. Berryhill, residing two miles south of Bellbrook, advertised that he was agent for the McCormick reaper and mower.

SCHOOLS

From the moment the settlers felt firmly established and able to be concerned with anything besides the work of clearing the land and raising crops, schools have been as great a topic of interest as any.

The first school house in the Bellbrook area was a crude log building on the west side of North Main Street between the houses now numbered 96 (Harry Wilkie's) and 120 (occupied by McDiarmids). It was constructed of round logs and had a large fireplace in each end. Windows were openings, where a piece of a log had been cut out, covered with greased paper. Heavy boards, resting on pegs stuck into the walls, extended around the room for writing desks. The seats were made of planks with strong pegs for legs. There were no backs. This was called a subscription school because the parents signed a paper promising to pay the teacher for each child entered for the term. The term was thought to be short — possibly only three months during the winter. The children could best be spared then from the tasks at home and on the farm. James Bain, a prominent local man, was the teacher. He combined his teaching with farming, the brewing of beer, and being a prominent lay member of the Associate Church of Sugar Creek. This church was located at the northeast corner of the Pioneer Cemetery. He later taught school in another log building at the southeast corner of that cemetery. His brewery was nearby in the hollow between the school and his log home, which was located near the present home of Mrs.

Raymond Brock, Sr. The years these schools were in session is not known but the first one must have been opened a few years after Ohio became a state.

There are traditions and accounts of schools held in other buildings in the area before the first public school was built in Bellbrook in 1833. That year Jacob Duck deeded lot 35 to Jeremiah Gest, Peter Bruner and Henry Harman, directors of School District No. 3 of Sugarcreek Township, for \$35.00. The building they built is still being used as a home at 28 East Maple Street. The directors certainly weren't going to waste the taxpayers' money by building a large, luxurious building which would never be filled. It is not known how much this building cost but the law at that time allowed the school directors to levy a special tax not to exceed \$300.00 for building a school house, if three-fifths of the householders of the district approved at a meeting called for that purpose.



First Public School in Bellbrook - East Maple Street

This first building soon proved to be too small due to the rapid increase in population after 1830. When it ceased to be used for school purposes is not known, but in 1849 Joseph Park, G. C. Rike and Benjamin Bell, Directors of School District No. 3, quit claim to lot 35 for the consideration of \$140.00. It is noted on the quit claim that this action conformed to the vote of the householders of the district at a meeting called for that purpose.



Second Public School in Bellbrook - West Maple Street

Tom Elliott says...

"...you've got

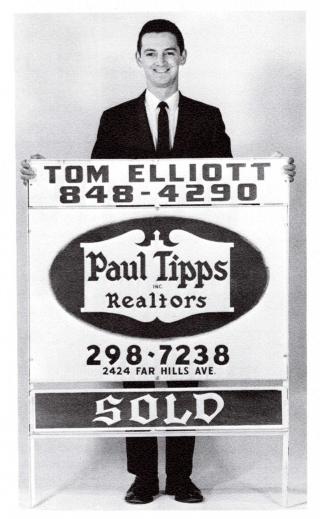
to know the territory!"

Yes, to sell property in the Bellbrook area, "you've got to know the territory." Tom Elliott LIVES in Bellbrook... over at 2427 Tennyson Drive. Tom Elliott KNOWS Bellbrook. So, if you're SELLING or BUYING in this area, CALL Tom Elliott. Just ring Tom's BELL - he'll BROOK no interference in selling your home.

BELLBROOK PROPERTIES **SOLD** BY TOM ELLIOTT IN JUST THE PAST FEW MONTHS

2424 TENNIVONI DD	¢24 000
2424 TENNYSON DR.	\$24,000.
6480 POSSUM RUN RD.	\$23,500.
UPPER BELLBROOK RD.	\$27,500.
2264 SO. LINDA DR.	\$21,000.
2430 PERIWINKLE DR.	\$22,000.
2085 REGENT PARK DR.	\$22,000.
2074 REGENT PARK DR.	\$26,500.
2351 SO. LINDA DR.	\$26.000.
ROSE CREST DR.	\$18,000.
4283 HILLCREST DR.	\$20,950.
3950 BARNETT DR.	\$18,000.
4115 ECKWORTH DR.	\$19,200.
5017 TIMBERLY DR.	\$25,000.
2450 BARNET DR.	\$26,700.
3872 WEAD PL.	\$18,500.
176 WASHINGTON MILL RD.	\$13,000.
2097 BONNIEDALE DR.	\$20,700.
4106 WOODEDGE DR.	\$26,500
1353 MOSSOAK TR.	\$21,500.
2095 MARCIA DR.	\$18,300.

These homes constitute nearly \$500,000. worth of real estate sales in the past few months.



If you want ACTION on the sale of your home, call this man! TOM ELLIOTT





Bellbrook's PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY

34 E. FRANKLIN STREET

WE ARE A FAMILY HEALTH CENTER FEATURING
PRESCRIPTIONS, INVALID AND DIABETIC NEEDS AND
CATERING TO PEDIATRIC AND GERIATIC PRESCRIPTIONS

Confirmation has just been received as to the shipment of fresh, exotic spices and herbs from the Far East and the West Indies.

These items will arrive in time for our sale and your inspection June 16th. Among these items are the following:

- WHOLE CINNAMON, STICK AND POWDERED
- WHOLE CLOVES
- PIMENTO
- ALLSPICE
- BLACK AND WHITE PEPPERS
- WHOLE NUTMEG
- · MACE
- CAYENNE PEPPER
- BAY LEAVES

and many other herbs and spices to be on our sidewalk display. We are also offering a limited quantity of aged Vanilla Extract. This extract is pure and unadulterated and has been aged for 15 years. Like the aging of fine wines, so, too, is the bouquet and aroma of vanilla. This Vanilla will not cook or freeze out of your most delightful preparations, thus enabeling you to be a connoisseur.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL OF US ON BELLBROOK'S

1st 150 YEARS!

The second public school building is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peterson at 33 West Maple Street. Under the present siding is a brick building. The year it was built is not known but it was probably before 1849. It is located on lot 14 and the auditor's tax list has a schoolhouse listed on that lot at times, but there doesn't seem to be a deed to the school directors for it. An article in the Xenia TORCHLIGHT of March 9, 1853, tells of the school being located in the lowest part of town and surrounded by open wagon and blacksmith shops. This building also proved to be too small. Biographical sketches tell of children attending school in a Presbyterian Church on a hill just west of Bellbrook during this period of time, walking across a foot log to reach the building. The following article is copied from the Xenia TORCHLIGHT of September 1, 1852.

Bellbrook Public Graded School

"This school will open its first session, on the first Monday of September; under the supervision of A. J. Nelson. Regulated as follows: The year will be divided into two sessions of 20 weeks each, the first session will commence on the first Monday of September, and continue 20 weeks. The second session will commence one week after the close of the first session, and continue 20 weeks.

The school will be closed from the 24th of December, until the 2nd of January, upon Thanksgiving day and May day.

Examinations, etc.

There will be an examination of all the grades at the close of the first session and also an exhibition. Monthly examinations will be held throughout the year.

Grades and Studies

First Grade - Alphabet, Spelling, Reading, (Primer and First Reader) Outlines of Geography, with Maps and globe, Mental arithmetic, description, singing and drawing, with various other exercises upon slates and blackboard.

Second Grade — Orthography, Reading (2d, 3d, and 4th), Arithmetic, Mental and written (as far as common fractions), Penmanship, Geography, with maps and globe, History, Natural Philosophy, composition, Colloquial Grammer, Singing and drawing.

Third Grade — Orothography, Reading and elocution, book-keeping, history (ancient and modern), English Grammar and Analysis, Logic, Geography, (ancient and modern), arithmetic (written and mental), algebra, natural Philosophy, Mechanics, Chemistry, Natural History, Geography of the Heavens, Anatomy, Physiology, Geometry, Trigonometry, Mensuration and Surveying, Political, Mental and Moral Science.

Tuition Fees

First Grade, per session.							\$2.00
Second Grade, per session							3.00
Third Grade, per session							5.00

Furnishing

The school will be furnished with the common school apparatus, numerous Maps and charts illustrating Geography, History, Anatomy, Physiology and Chemistry etc. Ink and ink stands, Pens and Penholders, gratis...

Superintendant
Principal Assistant and Teacher of Drawing
Principal of Primary Department and
Teacher of Natural History

A. J. Nelson Miss Sarah L. Beatty

Miss C. I. Kendall

It is peculiarly desirable that the scholars be at the opening of the school, in order that they may be arranged and properly classified. Tuition fees to be paid at the close of each quarter.

J. M. Stake)
)
J. M. McClure) Directors."
)
Wm. Conner)

In 1854 a two-story brick building was erected on the site of the present apartment building on North Main Street. There was a large room on the first floor with two smaller rooms on the second floor. One certainly questions why such a hilly lot was selected. Though not the answer, it is interesting that when the present Sugarcreek Elementary school was being proposed as a high school on the present grounds on East Street, one former school teacher vigorously opposed this tract because the children would have no place to coast. In spite of the steep slopes, the children played various games of tag, marbles and, believe it or not, baseball. First and third bases were trees. It was a rather steep climb from second base to home.

The first class graduated from Bellbrook High School in 1886 while attending this building. Each of the six graduates delivered a talk. The exercises were held in the then new Township House which was described as our elegant new little opera house. This building was used until 1894 when it was condemned by the state inspector of public buildings as being unsafe. During this period the pupils of Sugarcreek township attended seven one-room elementary schools and those desiring higher learning paid tuition to Bellbrook Special District to attend that high school. The seven districts were as follows: District #1 — Brown; #2 — Clemmer; #3 — Fauber; #4 — White; #5 — Elliott; #6 — Sugar Grove; #7—Bobtown.



Bellbrook High School - 1895

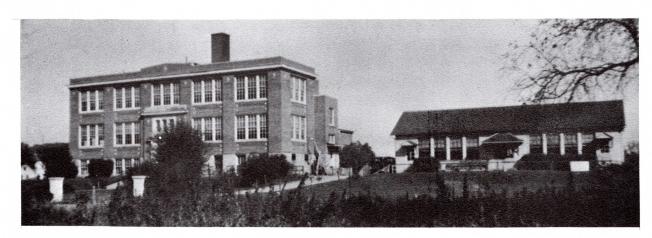
A three-room one-story brick building was dedicated January 26, 1895. Part of it was on the same foundation as the previous building. It was about this time the Bellbrook Special District refused to accept students to the high school because of the lack of room. The Sugarcreek board then organized its own High School and classes were held in the Hale block (now the Sheldonian), the present Township House, and possibly some other places. The first class was graduated in 1896. There was bickering for several years and the Township board had even bargained for one acre of land west of Bellbrook and expected to erect a brick building there for a high school, but an injunction stopped this plan. Later an election was held and the consolidation of the two districts was approved. The combination was known as Sugarcreek Local School District and the high school was chartered as Bellbrook High School; the school year of 1908-09 was the first term of its operation. A fourth room was added and in use in 1910, and this building then housed the elementary pupils of the village and all the high school students of the township. The outside appearance of this building changed very little until it was remodeled for modern apartments in 1964. The present shop building was built for a barn to shelter the horses and buggies of the students and was used during the school year 1913-14 for the games of the first Bellbrook High School basketball team. Baseball games were played on the higher level ground east of the barn and now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Gail Borden.

The proposed centralization of all the rural schools and the town school was started before 1920. After much discussion, meetings, votes and a lawsuit or two, a high school building on south East Street was ready for the school term of 1925-26, and all the pupils were transported to Bellbrook. The gymnasium floor was the envy of many other schools for a few years.



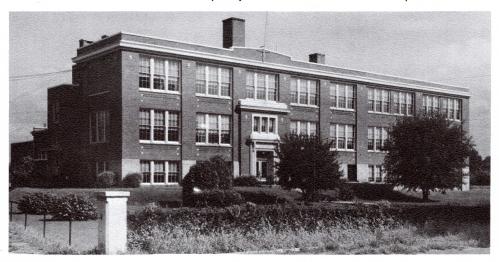
Old Barn - First Basketball Court

This building was crowded by 1927 and a two-room frame building was built just south of the high school building. It was ready for occupancy by 1928. This wooden building, often referred to as "the chicken house," has been used for classrooms, shop, art building and classrooms again. It is still in use but has been moved to a different location than when originally built.



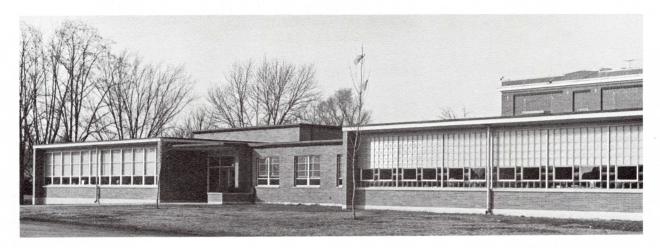
Bellbrook High School - 1925

When the three buildings became crowded, a twelve-room addition was built at the south end and the stage in the auditorium was greatly enlarged. This was ready for the 1939-40 school year. The old building on North Main Street was sold to Joseph Myers who converted it into apartments.

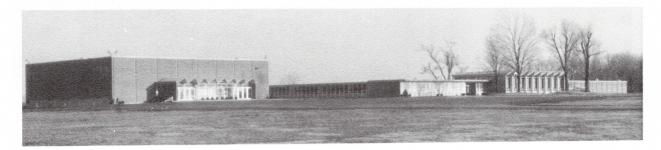


High School with addition - 1939

This larger building provided sufficient room for school purposes until the start of Bellbrook Farms and Belleview Plats. A bond issue was passed to provide an eleven-room, one-story building with a multi-purpose room, ready for the 1956 school year. With the continued growth of the community, these facilities were also soon crowded. A bond issue was passed and a sixteen room one-story building with a multi-purpose room was occupied March 1961 by high school students. The auditorium-gymnasium was completed in time for the 1963-64 season. Six more classrooms have been added since the building was erected. This building is located a half mile north of Bellbrook on the Upper Bellbrook Road. Since then the Stephen Bell school has been erected in 1964 in Belleview Plat, more than a mile west of Bellbrook and a block north of State Route 725.



Elementary Addition to Second High School

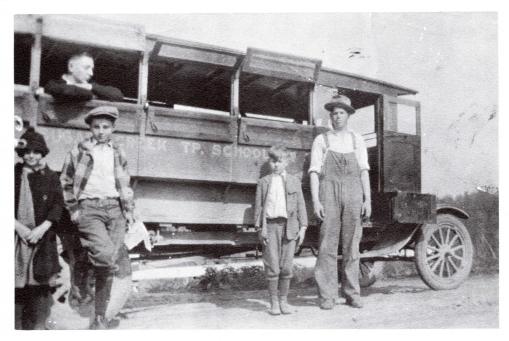


High School on Upper Bellbrook Road



Stephen Bell School

The first school buses were powered by Ford Model T Truck chassis. They were painted green with white letters and were driven by men, high school boys and occasionally by grade school boys. They were succeeded by Ford Model A trucks with dual rear wheels. The bodies were painted yellow and were made at Port William, Ohio, by a former carriage maker. Though made of wood, they lasted very well. They were privately owned and driven by the owners. These were succeeded by board-owned, Chevrolet-powered buses with capacities of forty-five. The size, power and number have steadily increased, until there are fourteen buses in 1966, rated at sixty-pupil capacity and powered by several different types of trucks.



First School Bus - 1925

TEACHERS

James Bain, the first teacher in the community, was reported to be a good instructor and to yield a switch with authority. Mr. William Dodge taught in the first public school and was also considered a fine teacher. It is reported that he was a graduate of Yale, who became estranged from his wealthy parents and somehow happened to locate in Bellbrook. He is said to have had a fine library for that time, the 1830's and 40's. Mr. Andrew Amyx, Mr. J. P. Patterson and Miss Jennie Parry were the first teachers in the schoolhouse built in 1854. Miss Parry was a popular primary teacher, for many of her former pupils paid tribute to her forty years later.

Miss Olive Coffeen was the principal when the first class graduated from Bellbrook High School in 1886. Silas O. Hale was principal of Sugarcreek Township High School from 1892 to 1900. His brother James R. Hale, John L. Elcook and Miss Metta Mills were teachers.

After 1900, Charles Lee Mills, at present a Common Pleas Judge at Dayton, taught at Bellbrook before studying law. Miss Frances Morris, a native of Sugarcreek Township, was a popular teacher for years. Roland Kinder taught many years at different periods, retiring in 1963. Mrs. Lois Cole, Mrs. Clarabel Cook, Mrs. Louise Elliott, Miss Geraldine Dumford (Mrs. Alex Neace), Miss Roberta Babb and Mrs. Lee Spahr all have taught several terms in recent years.

Some teachers, who taught here and have continued teaching at other schools in important capacities, follow:

Tom Blackburn, later University of Dayton coach, taught in the grades during the school year 1927-28, but was not the basketball coach here. His uncle, Ray Blackburn, was a highly successful coach of the girls' teams. Vaughan Lewis was a high school teacher who was later Greene County Superintendent of Schools and recently retired as head of Beavercreek schools. Jack Ross, who coached here, coached Belmont High School of Dayton to the state championship in basketball in 1964.

Larry Bagford is the present Superintendent of Sugarcreek Township schools. Gene Ray is the high school principal, Russell Garr is principal at Sugarcreek Elementary and Mrs. Lawrence Harner is principal of Stephen Bell Elementary.

Bagford is in his first year as head of schools, succeeding Mac Winston, who had served since 1957. Other superintendents were Don Couser, now principal at Brookville High School; Robert Impson now head of the Cedarcliff Schools; Donald Hiatt now head of the Clinton-Massie Schools; Wiley Manker formerly head of Port William Schools; Carl A. Wright now teaching at Bellbrook after spending twenty-five years at Master Electric Company; A. E. Gower and Ray Blackburn were others.

ATHLETICS

During the years, Bellbrook High School has had a few teams and individuals to be proud of in athletics. There have been winning seasons and some very poor ones. Basketball has always aroused the most interest of any sport. It was introduced during the term of 1913-14. Baseball was played before that time.

Bellbrook boys won the Greene County Tournament in 1928 and 1960, which was the last year more than two teams participated. They were second in 1929, 1936, 1942 and 1954. Both the 1960 and 1965 teams finished second in the district tournaments. The girls' teams were champions in 1929, 1930 and 1931. They were second in 1928 and 1940, which was the last year girls played as preliminary to boys' games and in tournaments in Greene County.

Bellbrook won the County baseball championship once.

Football was introduced the fall of 1964, when a reserve team schedule was played. The first varsity season was 1965.

Bellbrook never won the Greene County track meet. There have been some good marks made by Bellbrook track men, but the sport was never popular. Three boys, Jack Stethem, Dale Walker and David Berryhill have participated in the state track meet at Columbus. Dale Walker, of the class of 1966, has accomplished the highest achievement of any Bellbrook athlete when he won the Class A high jump with a leap of 6 feet, 5 inches in 1965. This set a state record, but his highest jump was 6 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the Dayton regional meet the week before.

Pamela Mather received the highest recognition of any Bellbrook school girl, when she was chosen 4-H Queen at the Greene County Fair and then State 4-H Queen at the Ohio State Fair in 1962.

P. T. A.

The School Welfare Club was organized in the Primary room of the Bellbrook Schoolhouse on November 23, 1921. The duties of its members: to keep in close communication with the interests of our schools, to cooperate with the teachers, to help provide materials, books, etc. needed in school work. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Easter Black; Vice-President, Mrs. Lettie Marshall; Secretary, Mrs. Edna Tate; Treasurer, Mrs. William Miller. Of these four officers, Mrs. Tate and Mrs. Miller are still living.

Keeping abreast of the times, the "Welfare Club," as it was called, reorganized as the Parent-Teacher Club on December 10, 1936. This club, which functioned with the same objectives as the Welfare Club, was brought up-to-date once again on November 8, 1956, when it joined with the Parent-Teacher Association.

Today there are two organizations; The Bellbrook High School P.T.A., of which Mrs. Erwin Crossman is president; and the Sugarcreek Elementary P.T.A., headed by Mrs. John Murphy, Jr.

CHURCHES

Bellbrook United Presbyterian Church

The present Bellbrook United Presbyterian Church on West Franklin Street was known as the First Presbyterian Church of Bellbrook to distinguish it from the United Presbyterian Church on the northeast corner of Main and Walnut Streets.

This branch of the Presbyterian faith was known as the "old school Presbyterian" during the past century. The church was organized in 1828 by Rev. William Gray and Adrian Atue and the first building was erected the next year. It was located on the hill west of the present home of Walton Rogers at

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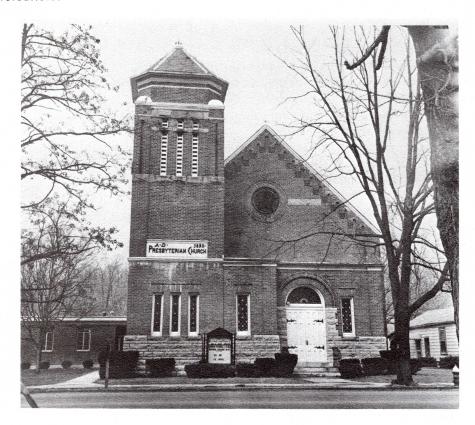
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WM. McCALLI STER - Probate Judge MAX DENNIS - State Senator
DR. JUSTIN KRAUSE - County Coroner
J. GORDON RUDD - County Court Judge REYNOLD HOEFFLIN

- Auditor
- County Commissioner
- County Commissioner
- County Commissioner
 - Treasurer
 - Clerk of Courts

 - County Court Judge



3644 State Route 725. The Bellbrook members, who walked, crossed Little Sugar Creek on a log footbridge to get there. The first elders were Josiah Lamme, John Cooper and William Russell. The congregation worshipped in this building until 1858, when they bought a church that stood on the present site from the Universalists.



This building was of frame construction with a steeple that housed a bell with a lovely tone. The only church in town to have a bell, it was known as the "bell church." It is possible that the bell now in use is the original. This building was used until it was moved to lot 60 on North West Street (west of the old livery stable) where it was used as a barn to house a hearse and other undertaking equipment of W. H. Morris. It burned in 1895.

The present edifice was built in 1890 and the classroom additions in 1955 and 1964. The manse was purchased in 1926. The present minister is the Rev. Mr. Kent M. Organ who has recently succeeded the Rev. Mr. Paul Gilbert. The Rev. Mr. T. B. Atkins seems to be the name most mentioned before 1900 and since then the Rev. Mr. Sharon Scott, Rev. Mr. T. H. Wayand and Rev. Mr. R. A. Hartman are remembered.

Bellbrook United Presbyterian Church Bellbrock Park

The Bellbrook United Presbyterian Church was a frame building erected on the northeast corner of Main and Walnut Streets in 1859, during the ministry of the Rev. Mr. R. E. Stewart. The ministers and officers of this church were the same as the Sugarcreek United Presbyterian Church at Wilmington and Bigger Roads. Morning services were held at the Sugarcreek Church and afternoon services at Bellbrook. Many members attended both services. Rev. Mr. J. B. McMichael was the paster of these two congregations for sixteen years until 1878, when he was appointed President of Monmouth College at Monmouth, Illinois.

After his leaving, interest must have declined as the church had been for sale some time when Andrew Byrd purchased it in 1883. When Byrd was remodeling it into an apartment house that year, the water in the well in the basement was found to be magnetized and the building soon blossomed into a sanitarium instead. In the picture of the Magnetic Springs Hotel, the church part is easily discerned from the later additions. The hotel burned in a spectacular fire in 1893.

The first services of the Sugarcreek United Presbyterian Church were held about 1805 in a log church at the northeast corner of the Pioneer Cemetery north of Bellbrook. The building, as it was described by the Rev. Mr. McMichael, writing in 1871, was a hewed log building covered with clapboards, with a good roof of weight poles. The door was in one end, while a huge fireplace occupied the other. There were small glass windows high up, each with four panes, held in place by blue-clay putty from the creek. A puncheon floor, backless log slab seats, and a high pulpit completed the interior.

When the congregation decided to build this church instead of holding services in private homes, the head of each family was to provide a number of logs according to his financial ability. When this was done and the house was up, furnishing it with seats was next in order. Each family hewed their own slab and constructed their own bench according to their own taste and skill in mechanical execution; so that between them there was a wonderful uniformity of difference. These seats were not cushioned and many of them had no backs, and the legs were unequal, and yet they sat and listened for a good long hour to an explanation of a Psalm and then to two long doctrinal sermons. Tallow dips furnished light at night, together with the fireplace. The pulpit, which was raised several steps above the floor, was built so that when the minister stood in place, only his head could be seen.

Bellbrook Methodist Episcopal Church

The first Methodist Episcopal Church in the Bellbrook area was a log building located two miles west on the northeast corner of State Route 725 and Wilmington Road, on the site of the present Texaco Station. The year this building was erected is not known nor when it was abandoned for church purposes. There was a cemetery alongside, though all traces of the gravestones have long since disappeared. The next building, of log construction also, was located on lot 20 in Bellbrook between the present homes of Mrs. Daisy Lansinger and Mrs. Grace Ritenour at 23 and 31 West Franklin Street.

A division of the Methodist Episcopal Church during 1828 produced the branch called the Methodist Protestant Church. This new branch found many adherents in the Bellbrook Church, including Stephen Bell, who owned the lot which the church occupied. When the dispute was settled the Methodist Episcopals met in a brick building on lot 91, now occupied by the residence of Ed. Ferguson at 91 West Franklin Street. The deed is dated 1835 and notes that there was a brick building formerly used for school purposes.

The present brick building was built in 1844 and has been remodeled some since. The classrooms were added in 1956. The manse was purchased in 1957.

The Rev. Mr. Richard Morgan is the present minister.

Until 1961 this church was one of four churches served by the same minister. Richland, Union and Spring Valley Churches were the other three.



Bellbrook Methodist Church - 1939

Bellbrook Methodist Protestant Church

When the division of the Methodist Episcopal Church occurred around 1828, the radicals retained possession of the old log meeting house, for which they received a deed in 1832. A brick building was built in 1842 and was razed in 1933 or 1934. Services were held there until 1914.



Bellbrook Methodist Church - 1965



Bellbrook Methodist Protestant Church 1842 - 1934

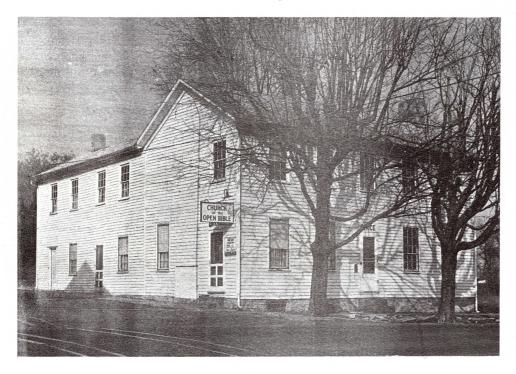
Bellbrook Universalist Church

There was a Universalist Congregation in Bellbrook for a few years. Lot 95, the site of the present Presbyterian Church, was deeded to the Universalist Society in 1847 for \$200.00. In 1857, the Universalist Society in turn deeded this lot to the Presbyterian Church for \$400.00.

Church of the Open Bible

One day in June in the year of 1929, Mrs. Flora Schlemmer of Dayton, Ohio, felt the "call of God" to tell others the good news of salvation. Several people helped her rent the Township House to hold services and the Rev. A. B. Cox, Pastor of the Assembly of God of Dayton, helped with the meetings. Later the Rev. Harry Dale was the leader of the congregation, which was known as the Bellbrook Full Gospel Mission. Their church was a frame building on North West Street, which was razed to make room for the present Sohio Service Station. After the Rev. Mr. Dale moved to Florida, the congregation met in the house on the northeast corner of Franklin and East Streets. At this time it received its charter as the "Church of the Open Bible." The present pastor is the Rev. Robert Brown and services are now held in a new brick building west of Bellbrook on State Route 725.

In 1930 this congregation inaugurated Easter sunrise services which were held on the hill over-looking Bellbrock Park. These services continued for thirty-one years sponsored by this church and now are attended by members of all the churches in the village.



Built by Samuel H. Hopkins in the 1840's for a home and a shoe factory

Catholic Churches

There has never been a Catholic Church in the Bellbrook area, although many Irish families had settled in Bellbrook around the period of the Civil War. At the present time, it is not known what attracted these people to our area. Many Irish were employed in the construction of the Little Miami Railroad during the 1840's and it may be, as Ray Higgins, an editor of the Xenia GAZETTE, suggests, that they were attracted by the beautiful terrain of Sugarcreek Township.

At any rate, the Higgins, Cannings, Gibbons, Duffys, Hannegans, Jarnigans, Minnegans, Cusics, Kirbys, and Stantons and others lived here during the latter part of the last century and the first years of this century. It is doubtful if any of their descendents by these names are still living in the Sugarcreek area.

TRANSPORTATION

The Pinckney or Lebanon-Urbana Road was the first route of transportation in this area. Foot travel, horseback and various types of wagons, carts and oxcarts were the means. Later buggies and carriages appeared and there are traditions of stage travel.

After the Little Miami Railroad reached Spring Valley during the 1840's, stage service was in-augurated between that town and Dayton. Dayton had no railroads at that time and there was some demand for the passenger service to Cincinnati, by stage to Spring Valley and then by rail, which was faster than the stage or canal boat from Dayton to the Queen City. Bellbrook was a station on that Spring Valley stage line. The coach, drawn by six prancing horses of the best blood, each in a fine set of harness and with a full set of bells, would rumble in from the west from Dayton along Franklin street and stop at the Eagle Exchange. When the stage was all ready to resume its journey toward Spring Valley, the driver would wind his bugle, the passengers would clamber up into their seats, and with a parting blare of the horn, the stage would clatter away. Oftimes the bugler would continue his calls until they would die away in beautiful echoes among the surrounding hills. Of course, when the railroads reached Dayton, this romantic travel ended.



"The Hack" Between Bellbrook and Spring Valley - around 1890

Bellbrook had hopes that a railroad would be constructed through the town and several lines were projected through the town and township. Although two surveying parties once crossed their lines in the southwest part of town, neither Bellbrook nor Sugarcreek Township has ever had a steam railroad.

Traction Line

Electric car lines appeared in various parts of the country during the 1890's.. The July 15, 1896, issue of the Bellbrook MOON contained an article about the feasibility of building an electric car line from Dayton to Wilmington through Bellbrook. Several optional routes were suggested such as through Centerville, through Beavertown, or even Alpha to Bellbrook and on to Spring Valley. From there, several routes were mentioned to Wilmington, even by way of Xenia.

From the July 15, 1896 - Bellbrook MOON:

"The people along this route travel to and from these points almost exclusively by vehicles. If extended on to Wilmington it would open up direct intercourse between Xenia and Wilmington, while it now takes a full day to go the round trip by rail. If an electric car line can go through a country and compete with the railroads, it surely does look as though one ought to pay where it has a route unmolested by competition, and everything their own way. Another question comes up do you think the people would patronize an electric car line? We say it would receive a large patronage by reason of the low fare; whenever people can travel for one cent and a half per mile they will not bother with a vehicle, unless it is a matter of compulsion. It is an acknowledged fact that there is no more pleasant way of riding ever devised than riding on an electric car. No disagreeable smoke and far less danger accompaning it than the steam cars. The danger of them scaring horses, that is true they will be sure to scare some horses, some horses never get used to the steam cars, nor a threshing machine, but an electric car will not scare half as many horses as a traction engine. There will be certain times for the cars to run and those who have scarry horses can evade the cars but there will only be a very few along the line but what will soon become used to them. We say for the benefit of all concerned, "God speed the coming of an electric car line, for we do not believe on Sundays, they could hardly put cars enough on the road to haul the people."

A Mr. J. M. Wilson, of Chicago, was the chief promoter and was helped by John H. Racer, Editor of the Bellbrook MOON, Wallace Berryhill and other local men. Despite active opposition, many enthusiastic supporters of a car line formed the Dayton, Spring Valley and Wilmington Transit Company in 1897. Surveying for the road started in February of 1897 and grading in April. Farmers and others used their teams, scoops, picks and shovels and finished the grade of the line except where the landowners

had sued to prevent construction on their land. Due to this opposition and other difficulties, the Dayton, Spring Valley and Wilmington Transit Company failed. (Some of the opposition sold their farms and moved away when the line was finally completed.)

It wasn't long until the Dayton and Xenia Traction Company took over the work of the defunct company and completed their branch to Spring Valley. Regular service commenced April 23, 1900, and general business in Bellbrook was laid aside to celebrate this new era of transportation. The first car arrived at 7:30 a.m., followed by seven more that day. The power plant that served this line is now used as a barrel factory on the northeast corner of Patterson and Grange Hall Roads in Beavercreek Township. A power line ran south from that point until it hit the present Little Sugarcreek Road a mile north of the present Feedwire Road, named in its honor. When it came to the Feedwire Road, it turned west to Wilmington Road and the traction line.

RATE SHEET

Beginning with Friday, July 1, 1904, the rate of fare from Bellbrook on the Spring Valley division of the Dayton & Xenia Transit Co. will be as follows:

Bellbrook to:	One Way	Round Trip
White's Corner	.05	.10
County Line	.10	.20
Roslyn	.15	.30
Belmont	.20	.40
Dayton	.25	.45
Bellbrook to Spring Valley	.05	.10

A. W. Anderson, Supt.

TIMETABLE

In effect Sunday, April 17, 1904

Cars leave Bellbrook for Dayton 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 a.m.,

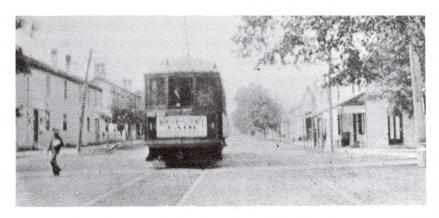
1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:30 and 11:00 p.m.

Cars leave Bellbrook for Spring Valley 7:40 and 10:10 a.m.

and 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25 and 11:55 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays extra cars will leave Bellbrook for Dayton at 9:30 a.m., 12:00, 2:30, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. For Spring Valley 8:55, 11:25 a.m., 1:55, 4:25 and 6:55 p.m.

Subject to change without notice.



Traction Car In Bellbrook

White's Corner is the present State Route 725 and Wilmington Road, west of Bellbrook; Roslyn is where Wilmington Road and Stroop Road join at the railroad in Kettering; and Beavertown was the small village on both sides of Wilmington Road just south of Dorothy Lane in present Kettering. It was also known as Dean Post Office.

The interurban service enabled many people to continue to live in Spring Valley and Bellbrook but to work in Dayton. As the automobile improved in dependability, its convenience caused the traction to

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slowly lose patronage until it quit in 1917 and the tracks were taken up. It is reported the company realized a good sum for them, sold as scrap, when the prices were high during World War I. Most of the cars used on this route were long double-truck cars. They hauled supplies to stores, picked up farmers' milk and chickens as well as passengers. There were some freight cars that would make an occasional trip.

All traces of this type of transportation have disappeared from this community, except the ruins of some of the stone culverts and the bed or grade which can be seen below State Route 725 as it curves around the hillside a mile southeast of Bellbrook.

Buses, Autos, and Bikes

An occasional bus line operated through Bellbrook as early as the 1920's when a line ran from Dayton through Bellbrook and Spring Valley to Waynesville. The latest was around 1960 when a very nice bus made the trip to Bellbrook. None was patronized enough to continue.

Automobiles made their appearance before 1905. Dr. George C. Hook, Mr. Knisley Jewell, and Mr. John S. Turner were the first residents of Bellbrook to own automobiles. There is disagreement as to the makes, but Holzman, Regals, Ford, and E. M. Fare are mentioned. It is told that when Dr. Hook made a house call in the country, he would pay boys a nickel to go with him and push if he got stuck. The narrow, high-pressure, smooth-tread tires had very little traction and needed the push to get through the mud roads. With the introduction of the cheap Model T Ford, the automobile soon antiquated all horse-drawn vehicles, and after 1925 the buggy became a curiosity.



Dr. and Mrs. George C. Hook - 1910

The bicycle became a popular type of transportation, where road conditions permitted, after the present chain-drive style had been introduced sometime before 1900. The old style, with the pedals on the very high front wheel, required an expert rider to keep from falling on his face when the front wheel hit a bump.

There are many accounts of young men riding to Dayton to get some badly needed small items, since in decent weather the new models were less bother than a horse. Most cities had bicycle clubs and there are accounts of Xenia and Dayton clubs riding to Bellbrook and other towns. A Bellbrook MOON of 1897 tells of Al Kemp and Dan Racer traveling to Cincinnati. They left at 4:00 a.m. and arrived in the Queen City at 9:00 a.m. On the return trip they left Cincinnati at 2:00 p.m. and arrived home at 6:20 p.m. Dan Racer was riding a new slick-running Tiger bicycle which was advertised at \$50.00, \$75.00 and \$100.00. Motorcycles were here about as soon as automobiles and motor scooters became popular after World War II.

TAVERNS

Taverns and hotels have played a colorful role in Bellbrook's history. Most would appear to be dwelling houses and were often called the house of (name of proprietor). The Magnetic Springs Hotel and the Bellbrook Inn with seventy and thirty rooms would certainly be called small hotels. The frequent changes of ownership give the impression that the income was uncertain, and most owners seemed to have other occupations to help with the finances. Most of the work of cooking, cleaning and washing would fall to the women and children. Travelers' accounts tell of teamsters sleeping on the floors and often being bothered by all sorts of vermin. Barns for the stabling and feeding of the horses were connected with these establishments.

The Clancey Tavern

As mentioned previously, the Clancey Tavern, located on Lot 47 on the southeast corner of Main and Walnut Streets, was the only building in Bellbrook when the town was platted in 1816. It was described as a large two-story frame house which had replaced the original log building sometime before Mr. Clancey moved to Indiana. Mr. Clancey sold his farm and tavern and some lots in Bellbrook to John McLean, a young attorney of Lebanon, Ohio, who owned the property until he in turn sold to Stephen Bell in 1831. Mr. McLean was to be a prominent man, becoming Justice of the United States Supreme Court several years later. William Edwards, Mr. McLean's brother-in-law, managed his farm, and in 1826 advertised his tavern "Sign of the Cross Keys" at Bellbrook in the Xenia paper. There is no evidence that Stephen Bell ever used the building as a tavern. A few years later it was used as a broom factory and later by Ephraim Bumgardner as one of the buildings in his carriage business. It is thought to have burned or been razed about Civil War time.

Mansion House

Until very recently, there were two houses in Bellbrook that had been used as taverns or hotels. The oldest one was located on the northwest corner of Main and South Streets. The building which was razed on March 9, 1966, was said to be the original, although it had been greatly repaired. It was known as the "Mansion House," the name painted on both sides of a sign that hung on a high pole in front. This establishment offered food, drink and lodging to the weary traveler, perhaps as early as 1820. There were numerous owners and surprisingly most of them later were prominent residents of the community. They were John C. Murphy, William Morris, Abner G. Luce, and David W. Brown, all having run it some time during the 1820's or 30's before Samuel Elcook purchased it in 1837. He combined the professions of tavern keeper and huckster until he sold this property to Thomas Austin in 1851. There is no account of Austin being a tavern keeper and it is thought that it was used as a residence from that time forward.

The other building is the two-story frame house on the northeast corner of Franklin and East Streets, recently used for church purposes by the Open Bible Church. It was more of a boarding-house type of hotel with meals available. Miss Mary Cusic, the proprietor, was in business before and after 1900. This building is thought to have been built by Samuel H. Hopkins for a shoe factory in the 1840's and used for dwelling purposes before Miss Cusic purchased it.

The first building on the southeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets was a small two-story frame house used for a while in the 1820's as a tavern owned by Richard Cunningham, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. This structure was moved east to make room for the present brick building, now called the Sheldonian, before the Civil War and was a delapidated old building when it was torn down in the 1920's. It was used as a store by Silas Hale for a few years before it was moved.

A one-story building near the northwest corner of Main and Franklin Streets was also used for tavern purposes. There were some meetings at this house of Ephraim Martin in Bellbrook, but little else is known about the business.

A three-story brick building on Lot 54 on the west side of Main Street and north of Franklin Street was known as the "Green Bay Tree." G. C. Rike is believed to have been the owner of this tavern. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows owned it at one time, too. It may have been used by others for business purposes. It was the home and office of Dr. George C. Hook when it burned in the fire of April 30, 1919.



Eagle Exchange

The largest and most historic of the pioneer taverns was the one located on the northeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets. It was known as the "Eagle Exchange" and later as the "St. George" or "Kemp Hotel." A frame building, the first part was erected about 1830 and there were some additions. This building, facing Franklin Street, housed a general store, a dining room, and a lobby on the first floor. The town pump and watering trough were at the street's edge in front of the building. The town council replaced the pumps and troughs and cleaned the well. This well slaked the thirst of man and beast, supplied water to fight fires and to ice the track on Main Street for the bobsleds. The bell in its cupola called the people to their meals and inspired James R. Hale to write the poem "Pig-Tail-Done" or "The Old Tavern Bell."

The first owners are uncertain. George C. Clark operated it some before Abner G. Luce purchased the property in 1843. Judge Luce operated the general store and probably the hotel during the rest of the 1840's. During his ownership, the tavern was a station on the Dayton and Spring Valley stage line. After the Judge's death, Samuel Elcook sold his 'Mansion House' tavern at the south end of Main Street and purchased the "Eagle Exchange." During the 1860's, Isaac Dingler acquired the tavern and it was while he was owner that "Sleepy Tom" the renowned pacing horse was boarded in the hotel stable when a colt.

In 1876, the sign with the "Eagle Exchange" was removed by the new owner, George W. Kemp, and the business was then called the "Kemp Hotel" or by some "The St. George Hotel." Mr. Kemp continued providing meals and lodging until he retired in 1896. Cathers operated it a few years and Harry Myers for a while. The Magnetic Council No. 231 of Junior Order of United American Mechanics acquired the building, removed most of the partitions on the second floor, and used it for lodge rooms. During this period, there was a grocery and barber shop on the first floor. The Junior Order had the delapidated old structure razed in 1921 and it was replaced by the present brick building in 1922.

The two large resort-type hotels have been described in the article on Magnetic Water. The Magnetic Springs Hotel, a remodeled church with additions, had seventy rooms. An advertisement for this hotel found in a brochure of the Chittenden Hotel in Columbus, Ohio, appears on the following page.

This hotel was reduced to ashes the night of July 9, 1893, in a spectacular fire that threatened the whole village.

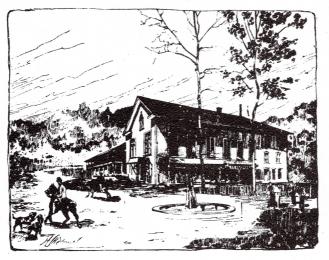
The thirty-room Bellbrook Inn had its grand opening in July, 1896, but it was never a financial success. It suffered the same fate as its predecessor, going up in flames November 26, 1906.

THE MAGNETIC SPRINGS HOTEL

T Bellbrook, Ohio, is a well appointed structure capable of accommodating without inconvenience over 150 people.

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popular in this section and its springs have become famous the world over for their remarkable health giving qualities, as frequent and careful chemical analyses by expert scientists have demonstrated to a certainty their medical properties and purity. Many remarkable cures have been wrought through the use of these magnetic waters, and persons suffering from the ex-



cessive use of intoxicants are at once restored to perfect health, as well as those afflicted with rheumatism, kidney troubles, dyspepsia, indigestion and all forms of nervous diseases.

Extensive improvements have recently been made in the equipment of the house, including the addition of a number of fine bath rooms and the splendid table; hunting, fishing and many other outdoor attractions make it extremely desirable as a sanitarium or summer resort.

The hotel is situated four miles from Spring Valley and has a station on the P. C. & St. L. R'y. Rates, \$2.00 per day; regular board, \$10.00 per week; baths, 25c. A handsomely illustrated pamphlet, descriptive of the place and containing a list of testimonials, is mailed free on application to those desiring more extended information concerning this resort.

Advertisement from a brochure found in the Chittenden Hotel, Columbus, Ohio

Tradesmen of Yesteryear

At one time many people were employed in the manufacture of clothing at Bellbrock. There doesn't seem to be any account of a commercial weaving establishment, but there was a carding machine at Bellbrook before 1826. It was owned by John Bell, Stephen Bell's oldest son. Where it was located or how it was powered is not known. The Xenia paper of 1826 has a notice that "John Bell has moved his carding machine from Bellbrook to Rogers' Mill," which was a mile east, where the present Lower Bellbrook Road crosses the Little Miami River. A newspaper of that year tells of firms in other parts of Greene County that were manufacturing cloth of wool and linen. There were several carding mills in Greene County at that time and it is reasonable to assume that many people spun and wove their own cloth after getting the wool carded.

Hatters, milliners, tailors, shoemakers and seamstresses were engaged in the manufacture of hats, shoes and clothes during the forepart of the last century. Many did their work in a room of their home.

The known hatters included John Sowards who had a shop in Bellbrook around 1820; Benjamin Bell, one of Stephen Bell's sons was a hatter; William Bechtell was a hatter from 1830-1845; Henry Dickensheets learned the trade of William Bechtell; Jesse Sanders was a hatter before he made a reaper and then became a wagonmaker.

Known shoemakers were William Dickensheets; Robert E. Patterson, who was engaged in making shoes at his home at the northeast corner of Franklin and West Streets; Hiram Sanders whose location is not known; James Turner, whose home and shop were located on the southeast corner of Main and Maple Streets; Nathan Middleton and Jonas Dunham, who worked at the cobbler's bench in their homes for years on North Main Street. Both are said to have come here in 1830 and lived side by side, Mr. Dunham in part of the present house at 62 North Main Street. Samuel H. Hopkins came to Bellbrook about 1840 and made shoes in the house on the northeast corner of Franklin and East Streets. He didn't remain in the shoemaking business as long as Mr. Patterson, Mr. Dunham, Mr. Middleton and Mr. Turner.

Tailors made the dress clothes for men and boys. Most Bellbrook tailors were here before the Civil War.

Ezekial Burney advertised as a tailor in a Xenia paper in 1826. John Koutzman came to Bellbrook in 1835. Nathaniel Brandenburg, a son-in-law of Stephen Bell, tailored and kept hotel on the nor¶heast corner of Main and Franklin Streets. Joseph and William Austin were located in Bellbrook a few years. John Hutchinson was another tailor in the Bellbrook area at a very early time, having died before 1830. Hezikiah Snowden moved away in 1855.

The names of milliners and seamstresses are harder to find, but both were located here at a very early time. Mrs. A. L. Crowl was a milliner in Bellbrook in 1889.

BLACKSMITHS

Until his era was left in the dust by the automobile and tractor, the village blacksmith was indeed a mighty man, or at least a mighty important man to the economic life of his community. His were the jobs of shoeing horses and oxen, making and repairing farm equipment, repairing wagons and carriages, and shaping iron and steel for various purposes. His work was vital to pioneer and later generations until, with the introduction of modern machinery, he was succeeded by other mechanics.

Blacksmiths were also crucial to the making of wagons, carriages, buggies and other horse-drawn vehicles and many were employed by these industries during the post-pioneer period. As in other trades, there were many itinerant workmen, continually changing places, staying a year or two here, and then moving on.

Many Bellbrook buildings have served as smithies. Two of the best are still used for other purposes: the brick part of a residence on the northeast corner of Main and Maple Streets and the brick building at 19 North Main Street, lot 50, adjoining Mockabee's Carry Out on the east side of North Main Street.



Blacksmith Shop - Main and Maple Streets

James Webb, who is credited with building the first house in the new town of Bellbrook, is said to have had his shop on the northwest corner of Main and Franklin. Another account asserts that his shop was a log building located near the present museum at 42 North Main Street. William Holmes' shop was on lot 29 to the rear of 65 South Main Street. Samuel Engleright, George Kilor, Hiram Coon, Clayton Fryant, Ephraim Sparks and William Seal were located here before the Civil War. Harrison Hosier plied the trade many years after 1835.

Henry Mills moved to Bellbrook in 1838 and operated in a shop which is the brick part of the house at 56 West Franklin Street. Several years later, around 1850, he built a brick shop which is a part of the present residence at the northeast corner of Main and Maple Streets. A two-story frame building, built on the same lot a few feet to the east, was used as a carriage shop. After Mr. Mills died in 1860, Jacob Boroff ran the shop, until Charles Mills, the son of Henry, started working there about 1880. Charles Mills had learned the blacksmith trade while working for Ephraim Bumgardner. The Bumgardner firm

quit after his death in 1878 and Mr. Mills then operated the Mills' shop with the help of John and William Cathers. Later others helped him until his death in 1935. Herman Glotfelter was there a few years after that.

In 1844, Ephraim Bumgardner started business as a blacksmith and wagonmaker in a shop built by William R. Russell sometime before. This was the largest shop in Bellbrook and was the blacksmith shop for the carriage manufacturing business of Mr. Bumgardner. Mr. Bumgardner employed many blacksmiths. This building is the present building at 19 North Main Street, just north of the Bellbrook Carry Out.



Bumgardner Blacksmith Shop - 1844

Charles Miller, who came to Bellbrook in 1843, at various times worked for Hiram Coon, Henry Mills, James Seal and Brazil Pancoast. Between these jobs, he lived and plied his trade in other towns. Before 1890, he built a shop on the south side of East Franklin Street west of East Street, where he worked until his death in 1905 at the age of 91. It is said that Mr. Miller, who was a great walker, at one time lived in Bellbrook and walked back and forth to Waynesville, where he worked, every day. Mr. Miller had five sons, all thought to have learned the trade. William, Frank and George are known to have worked for their father at Bellbrook and George operated the shop sometime after his father's death.

Brazil and Leonidas Pancoast operated a shop many years after the Civil War. After Dinwiddies' stopped making wagons, their shop was used by others for blacksmith purposes. Rolla Davis owned the shop many years and rented it to others, including Joseph McGinnis and William Richards. The shop stood idle for a long period of time and just the walls were standing in 1930. Eugene Penewit operated shops in Bellbrook after 1910. One was located on the site of the Bellbrook Carry Out at 15 North Main Street.

WAGON AND CARRIAGE MAKERS

An article which states that James Webb was the first blacksmith in Bellbrook, also says that a man by the name of Langlen had a wagonmaker's shop adjoining. This statement is probably true, for there was a good demand for horse-drawn vehicles and probably a greater demand for the services of those who could repair them. There was always someone able to perform this work until the early part of the twentieth century, although the actual construction of new wagons, buggies and carriages ceased around 1890 when the small local men couldn't compete with larger factories.

Alfred Bowlsby advertised his carriage business at Bellbrook in the Xenia papers during the 1840's and it is thought that Joseph Park was his partner some of the time.

John R. Dinwiddie was in Bellbrook for sometime before he built a brick shop on the northeast corner of West and South Streets about 1848. Part of the time Jesse Sanders was his partner. Dinwiddie died in 1861, but his son Samuel operated this business as late as 1880. After he quit, this shop was used by blacksmiths, then stood idle for years before it crumbled to the ground during the 1930's.

Samuel Lamb was a wagonmaker here for thirty or forty years after 1849.

Ephraim Bumgardner moved to Bellbrook in 1844 to work as a blacksmith and wagonmaker. In 1849

he began the manufacture of carriages and buggies and continued that business until his death in 1878. For many years he had the largest establishment in Greene County and had the reputation for turning out the best work in southern Ohio. His products were so popular that one of his heavy spring wagons was shipped to a former local resident at Pendleton, Oregon, during the 1870's, and some of his finest carriages were shipped east. Painstaking care was given to the fancy trim and paint. Bellbrook's most prosperous days were when Bumgardners' shops were booming. He employed between twenty and thirty workmen for many years.

His shops were located on lots 43 to 50, south of Walnut Street and between North Main and North East Streets. There were blacksmith, paint, woodworking and trimming shops. There was a display room, a barn, and enough area to park vehicles and store materials outside. Three or four buildings of this group survive to this day. The brick blacksmith shop is the present Commercial building at 19 North Main Street. The present barn of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Barnard east of the brick was used as a paint shop and it may be that Barnards' house was the show room for the business.



Bumgardner House

The large gray brick house at 26 North Main Street was the home of Mr. Bumgardner. It was the custom for the employees to board at this house and the following sat at their employer's table: Horatio Kemp, Albert Blease, Alva Smith, Albert Kemp, Harry Butler, Lewis Raper, Thomas Gibbons, William Luce, "Bud" Truman, William Davis, Theodore Schaffer, Samuel Raper, Samuel Willoughby, William Willoughby, William Thorne, John Cathers, William Cathers, Patrick Gibbons, Lewis Dingler, James Maloney, Charles Cunningham, Charles Mills, Amos Harnish, Beaty Weller and John Weise.

After Mr. Bumgardner's death in 1878 some of his help tried to continue the business. There was the firm of Willoughby, Davis and Raper, but only the firm of Maloney and Murphy is listed in the Greene County directory of 1881. Other employees sought employment in other shops and towns, some going to Dayton. So ended Bellbrook's largest manufacturing firm. It is doubtful if any of the present local firms employ as many workers or their products have as widespread distribution as did those of Ephraim Bumgardner.

Jesse Watson operated a shop in a brick building that stood on the southwest corner of Maple and West Streets. It was described as a large building for a blacksmith or wagonmaker's shop. People are hazy about how it disappeared but it must have burned for people known to have worked there later worked at the shop a block south. When it was built or who built it is not known; it may well have been by some workers we have mentioned but know little about.

AUTOMOBILE MECHANICS

With the appearance of the automobile, there was a demand for mechanics to repair and service them. At first blacksmiths were able to repair most parts, but the motor was a different problem and an entirely new trade evolved. Joseph L. Myers started selling Ford cars in 1912 and continued in that business until the Ford Motor Company quit making the famed Model T in 1927. He occasionally had a mechanic but never a full-time workman. Carl Peterson serviced the Fordson tractors that came out

about 1920. Willis Black and Wendel Hook repaired cars but did not have gas pumps in connection with their garages, which were former barns located in alleys.

In 1915 Glenn Hess opened the Magnetic Garage on the site of the present Carry Out at 15 North Main Street. The building reached its present size in the 1920's with remodelings and additions. Mr. Hess continued in business until 1945 when he sold to Kendal Black. Mr. Black hired Carson Fleenor as a mechanic and they operated the garage and service station until 1957 when Mr. Black sold the garage equipment and converted the building into a store room for the purpose of a Carry Out. Mr. Ralph Mockabee is the present owner, having bought it of Mrs. Black in 1963.

Mr. Hess' son Gerald built the start of the present Brookside Garage complex in 1946 and completed the service station in 1951. When Gerald went into other business, he leased Brookside Garage to Don Tracy in 1960. Since then Gerald has returned to help at Brookside at the southeast corner of Main and Walnut Streets.

A Sohio Service Station built at the northeast corner of West and Franklin Streets in 1963 is now operated by John and Mickey Connor.

Four Service Stations have been built two miles west of Bellbrook near the Wilmington Road and State Route 725 intersection since 1960.

TANNERS

Leather, a product of many uses in earlier days, was obtained by processing cattle hides in establishments called "tanneries" or sometimes called "tanyards." John Hale's pioneer tannery was in operation north of Bellbrook before the town was platted. Charles and Jesse McChristy operated a tannery at the north end of the present Bellbrock Park for a few years around 1820. John Hale may have operated it at some time, too. Isaac Fallis' tannery was on a lot now occupied by the Fernandez Art Craft warehouse to the rear of the Presbyterian Church. Water was piped to it from the springs on the the hills to the north. Mr. Fallis advertised in the Xenia paper in 1854 that his tanyard at Bellbrook was for sale, mentioning that it had been established eight years before. Abram Garver worked at tanning in Bellbrook from 1849 to 1858 and was elected mayor one term.

HARNESS MAKERS AND SADDLERS

Both Dr. James Clancey and Dr. William Frazier were saddlers and harness makers before they became doctors. Mitchell Ennis worked at the trade a short time at about the same time as the two doctors. Eden Haines was here around 1850. George Holloway built the small brick building at 16 North Main Street around 1850 for a shop and the frame house at 18 North Main for a home. Many years later Benjamin Robbins made and repaired harness in this brick building. In later years he repaired harness only, finding that he couldn't compete with the large manufacturers. Bellbrook's last harness maker, he was here before 1880 and closed his shop around 1912.

COOPERS

Barrels were the containers used to store and ship many types of products, both liquid and solid. They were stronger than many boxes and were easier to move because they could be rolled. Many men were trained to make them. James Cunningham, who started a shop on West Maple Street about 1850, hired several hands to supply B. F. Allen with pork and lard barrels. Other coopers of this period were John Cunningham, John Stover, Michael Repolge and J. W. Harper. Harper served several terms as Probate Judge of Greene County. Samuel Lamme is listed as a cooper in the directory of 1881.

Charles Killian, Sr., who succeeded Cunningham on West Maple Street, was considered a good workman. His sons learned but did not pursue the trade.

CARPENTERS

Henry Harman, one of the pioneer carpenters, moved to Bellbrook in time to build the old part of the present Penewit Hardware, for which he received fifty cents a day in 1828. Several of his sons were carpenters but finally left Bellbrook. George M. and William H. Harman were located here for years. Mr. Henry Harman built some of the present houses on West Franklin Street in the 1840's. He operated a saw mill at the west end of Bellbrook on the property now known as the Ba-Te-Yo-Ca Youth Camp and lived in the present small frame house in the valley.

Joseph Park, besides being a wagonmaker, was a carpenter, too. John McClure

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SESQUICENTENNIAL

THURSDAY, June 16 - Official Opening Ceremonies

7:00 p.m. Parade of visiting dignitaries

Governor James Rhodes - Guest Speaker - Village Square

8:00 p.m. Dedication of "Bellbrook Historical Museum" - North Main Street

9:00 p.m. Coronation Ball - Village Square

Bob Braun - Master of Ceremonies

Miss Ohio of 1966-67

The Ron Meyer Orchestra - Dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Crowning of the Sesquicentennial King and Queen, Prince and Princes, Duke and Dutchess

FRIDAY, June 17

All day viewing of the Historical Window Displays in the business places

9:00 a.m

Bellbrook Merchants "Old Fashion Days" Sidewalk Sales

and all day

Walking Tour of Historical Homes and Sites in Bellbrook

Every hour starting 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Leaving from Sesquicentennial Headquarters

Bellbrook Garden Clubs Flower Show - Theme "Historical Soliloquies" -

Presbyterian Church - West Franklin Street

Antique Flea Market - South Main Street

Bellbrook Art Club Exhibition - East Franklin Street

Girl Scout Jamboree - West Franklin Street

Boy Scout Jamboree - East Franklin Street

Ohio Doll Association Display

Antique Paper Weight Collection

Antique Gun Collection Display - Town Hall - East Franklin Street

Antique Steam Engines and Old Machinery - Citizens 1st National Bank Lot -

West Franklin Street

Display of Community Antiques - Fire House - West Franklin Street

Amusement Rides - Around The Village Square

10:00 a.m.

Hospitality Center Opens - Town Hall

Registration of former residents, guests and visitors

12:00 noon

Dinner served in Bellbrock Park - North Main Street

Noon - Dark

Old Fashion Ice Cream Social - East Franklin Street

2:00 p.m.

Stephen Bell School Apollo Choir - Village Square

3:00 p.m.

Band Concert - Bellbrook High School Band - Village Square

4:00 p.m.

Folk Dancing - Bellbrook Brownies - Village Square

6:00 p.m.

Brother of the Brush Beard Judging - Village Square

6:30 p.m.

Sister of the Swish Dress Judging - Village Square (Little Belles included)

7:00 p.m.

Kangaroo Kourt - Village Square

7:30 p.m.

Kettering Sweet Adelines Concert - Village Square

8:30 p.m.

Pageant - "Echoes of Yesteryear"

SATURDAY, June 18

All day viewing of the Historical Window Displays in the business places.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9:00 a.m. and all

Bellbrook Merchants "Old Fashion Days" Sidewalk Sales

Walking Tour of Historical Homes and Sites in Bellbrook. day

Every hour starting 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Leaving from Sesquicentennial Headquarters.

Bellbrook Garden Clubs Flower Show - Theme "Historical Soliloquies" -

Presbyterian Church - West Franklin Street

Antique Flea Market - South Main Street

Bellbrook Art Club Exhibition - East Franklin Street

Girl Scout Jamboree - West Franklin Street

Boy Scout Jamboree - East Franklin Street

Ohio Doll Association Display Antique Paper Weight Collection

Antique Gun Collection Display - Town Hall - East Franklin Street

Antique Steam Engines and Old Machinery - Citizens 1st Natl. Bank Lot - W. Franklin St.

Display of Community Antiques - Fire House - West Franklin Street

Amusement Rides - Around The Village Square

10:00 a.m.

Hospitality Center Opens - Town Hall

Registration of former residents, guests and visitors

10:00 a.m.

Pet Show - Village Square

11:00 a.m.

Bellbrook Junior High School Chorus - Village Square

12:00 noon

Dinner in Bellbrock Park

Noon - Dark

Old Fashion Ice Cream Social - East Franklin Street

1:00 p.m.

Eaglettes Drum and Baton Corp - Village Square

2:00 p.m.

Bethel Fife & Drum Corp - Village Square

3:00 p.m.

Kangaroo Kourt - Village Square

4:00 p.m.

Folk Dancing - Bellbrook Girl Scouts - Village Square

5:00 p.m.

Gigantic Historical and Patriotic Sesquicentennial Parade

7:00 p.m.

Concert by Dayton Chapter of SPEBSQSA

8:30 p.m.

Pageant - "Echoes of Yesteryear"

Street Dance - Dixieland Band & "Penetrations" (Rock & Roll Band) 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.

12:00

Goodnight!

SUNDAY, June 19 - Senior Citizens Day

8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass - North Main Street

11:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

Protestant Church Service - North Main Street

Hospitality Center Opens - Registration of former residents, guests and visitors

12:00 Noon

Dinner in Bellbrock Park - North Main Street - Your Basket Lunch or Box Lunches available

1:30 p.m.

Gospel Mariners of Good Ship Zion

2:30 p.m.

Fairborn High School Band Concert - Village Square

3:30 p.m.

Senior Citizens Reception - Village Square

Thank you, Farewell. See you at the Bi-Centennial in the year 2016!

In case of rain all activities will be held in the High School Auditorium, Upper Bellbrook Road, one-half mile north of the Village Square.

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EYE

55 North Main Street Centerville, Ohio platted McClure's Addition to Bellbrook which is located on both sides of West Maple Street. John Keiler, one of the first carpenters in this area, served one term in the State Legislature in 1843. John H. Grimes and William H. Harman built the present Township House in 1884. John H. Williams was a carpenter of that period.

Since 1900, John T. Finley, Ralph Hopkins, John Weaver, Herman Glotfelter, Harry Myers, Harry Finafrock, Oliver and Reuben Webb, and Harry Gibson have plied the trade.

MASONS

Roderick D. Rowsey was the best known bricklayer of the nineteenth century. Many brick houses in the Bellbrook area were built by him. The present Sheldonian on the southeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets is his work, as is the yellow brick house on the east side of North Main Street just beyond Upper Hillside Drive. His brickyard was located about where Upper Hillside Drive intersects North Main Street. Mr. Rowsey and John McClure built several one-room schools in this area and a Mr. Stull helped them with additions to Ephraim Bumgardner's house at 29 North Main Street and B. F. Allen's house, now Dave Barnet Appliances at 15 West Franklin Street.

Many of the Irish located in Bellbrook about the Civil War period were stonemasons. Anthony Higgins and his sons, the Minnegans, the Hanaghans, the Duffys and others were stonemasons who built bridge abutments, culverts, walls, and foundations. Those who have been razing some of the buildings during recent years can testify that they used good heavy material.

CABINETMAKERS

Cabinetmakers could be called manufacturers of furniture. They made pieces to order and stocked some popular items. Silas Hale was the first known cabinetmaker in Bellbrook and his shop was located in James Webb's blacksmith snop on the northwest corner of Main and Franklin Streets. His brother Bowen helped him. They quit this business in 1833, when they sold their business to Andrew Byrd. Mr. Byrd's shop was located on the southwest corner of Main and Franklin Streets. He sold his business to John M. Stake in 1838.

That year, Mr. Stake began one of the longest terms in business of any man in Bellbrook. His first shop was located on the southwest corner of Main and Franklin Streets, but in a few years was moved to lots 5 and 6 at the northwest corner of Main and Maple Streets. From around 1850, Mr. Stake conducted a furniture manufacturing and undertaking business in this area until his death. Power for turning the lathes was furnished by a horse walking in circles, activating a set of gears. The finishing was done in a brick building which is now the brick part of the present house of Mrs. J. R. Penewit at 28 South Main Street. The Stakes lived many years in the present house of John Holton at 36 South Main Street. John M. Stake trained his sons in his business and they had a store, managed by his son George, in Dayton after the Civil War. Mr. Stake, with the help of his sons, continued in business until his death in 1898. His son, John M., continued to make furniture until about 1905 when the competition of the large factories made it unprofitable to continue. After that John Stake with the help of his brother Henry and son Harry operated a furniture store on North Main Street until their building burned in the fire of April 30, 1919. There were others who made furniture but not as their major occupation.



Stake's Furniture Store

UNDERTAKERS

It may seem strange to link cabinetmakers and undertakers, but Silas Hale, Andrew Byrd and John M. Stake all made coffins. During the period Hale and Byrd made coffins, the friends of the deceased called for the coffin at the shop, took it to the home of the deceased, placed the body in the coffin, and transported it to its last resting place in an ordinary wagon.

John M. Stake was in the undertaking business for sixty-five years and he was located at Bellbrook sixty of those years. He was the first man to own a hearse in Bellbrook, there being only one other in Greene County at that time. It is said Mr. Stake buried between five and six thousand bodies during his long period in business. His sons assisted him in this business as well as in cabinetmaking and after his death his son Thomas continued as an undertaker for several years.

William H. Morris, who opened an undertaking business in Bellbrook before 1890, was in business here ten years before moving to Osborne and later to Dayton. The Morris Sons' Funeral Home is the present name of the business he founded, now on East Third Street in Dayton.

James Crowl was in partnership with Mr. Morris and continued in the undertaking business until the 1930's. Mr. Crowl owned horse-drawn equipment only and when that was outmoded would rent motor-driven equipment. The little white frame building at 38 North Main Street was his office and embalming room. Until recently funerals were usually held in the decedent's home or church. Funeral homes are a development of the last thirty years in this area.

BAKERIES

C. Q. (Quint) Buckles was a baker located in the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Barnard at 21 North Main Street. He advertised in an 1886 issue of the Bellbrook MOON that "Quint Buckles keeps constantly on hand Fresh Bread, Cakes, Bananas, Oranges, Peanuts, all kinds of Candies and Soda Water, also Ice Cream on Wednesdays and Saturdays." Edward Strain was one of his bakers.

Charles Wright was another baker and moved the oven and store to the present brick building at 17 North Main Street. Mr. Wright quit the bakery before 1915.

He had a salesman running a retail bread route through the countryside selling six one-pound loaves for 25¢.

BARBERS

Lewis Pettiford (colored) is listed as a barber in the 1881 Greene County directory. That is the first reference to a barber in Bellbrook but there were certainly some here previous to that time. Since 1900 there have been William Stremmel, Charles Conner and his sons Harry and Elmer, Charles Underwood and Elmer Wetzel during the 1920's and early 1930's, and Ava Miller. Harry and Elmer Conner didn't follow that trade very long. Ava Miller was a barber here from 1913 to 1919.

Samuel Bowles, who learned the trade under Ava Miller, started barbering in 1918. With the exception of a few years in the 1920's, Sam has followed this occupation ever since. In May, 1957, Russell Faulkner opened a shop in Bellbrook and is still in business here. Ronnie Long and John M. Large are in the same shop. In May, 1965, Max Holland opened his shop next to the Thrifty Boy grocery and at the present time has Thomas Cooper in the shop with him.

JEWELER

Bellbrook had one jeweler. Calop Stratton, a silversmith, had his shop on the north side of West Main Street about where the bank parking lot is at the present time. This was before the Civil War.

PHYSICIANS

Bellbrook was blessed with several doctors during the first century of its existence. It is possible that five were located here about 1850. For short periods of time during the 1920's no doctor was located here, and from 1940 to 1956 Bellbrook was without the services of a doctor. The people of the community then sought medical services in nearby towns.

The following is an alphabetical list of doctors who are known to have been here.

Dr. Frank C. Adams, 1904-1909.

- Dr. David W. Bedinger, 1902-1909. He built the house at 49 West Franklin Street (Mrs. Jesse Huston's) and it is easy to note the rooms he used for his offices.
- Dr. William Bell was the son of Stephen Bell. He learned the millwright trade of his father, but gave up this occupation to study medicine. He practiced several years in Bellbrook and later in Bryon, Xenia and Spring Valley, where he died. Several students studied under him. Those known were Aaron and Franklin Bell (his brothers), Mr. Walker, Andrew Crifield and Sapington Kiler. Dr. Bell owned the present house of Katherine Black at 63 North West Street but it is not known if he practiced there.
- Dr. James R. Brelsford, who served as a surgeon during the Civil War, was a physician at Bellbrook before that conflict. He married Dorinda Hale, the oldest daughter of Silas Hale, and died in 1866 while still a young man.
- Dr. James C. Brown, who studied medicine under Dr. Clancey, practiced in Bellbrook a few years before 1855. It is thought that the little brick room at the east end of the residence at 42 West Franklin Street (Lyman Hoop's) was his office and may also have been used by other physicians.
- Dr. James Clancey was the son of James Clancey, one of the founders of Bellbrook. Initially a harness and saddle maker, he later practiced medicine in Bellbrook until his death in 1849.
- Dr. W. C. Clark practiced at 49 West Franklin a few years in the 1930's, moved to Beavertown, left there to pursue additional studies and is now an eye specialist in Dayton.
- Dr. James R. Dawson lived at 91 West Franklin Street (Ed Ferguson's). He was here before the Civil War and died here in 1894. He was a native of the Jamestown area but was a long-time resident of Bellbrook.
 - Dr. T. G. Farr was located in Bellbrook during the Civil War.
- Dr. William H. Frazier was a brother-in-law of Dr. Clancey. When Frazier's parents died while he was still a lad, he went to live with the Clanceys. He learned the saddle and harness making trade under Mr. Clancey. When Mr. Clancey became a doctor, Frazier then studied medicine under him. It is said that Dr. Frazier was one of the most promising young men ever in Bellbrook but was disappointed in love and died a lonely old bachelor, after practicing in Bellbrook and Spring Valley as long as he was able.
- Dr. William H. Grimes came to this area about 1836 and ran a mill about one year. He then bought Dr. William Bell's practice and property in Bellbrook, where he practiced medicine several years. He also served one year as postmaster.
- Dr. E. K. Heiner was listed as a doctor and the owner of a drug store in Bellbrook, according to a Greene County directory of 1881.
- Dr. George C. Hook practiced in Bellbrook from 1885 to 1920. His office and home were located in the three-story brick building at 14 North Main Street, originally the Green Bay Tree Tavern, until the fire of April 30, 1919. He immediately built the brick residence at 14 North Main Street (Mrs. O. W. Hook's, Sr.).
- Dr. William R. Kable was considered the best-read doctor of his time in Bellbrook. He is said to have come to Bellbrook in 1842 and practiced several years. Even though well educated, he seemed to lack confidence in his own judgment and never had a large practice. Dr. Kable met an unfortunate fate when he was thrown out of a spring wagon during a runaway. His head struck a stone, crushing his skull and killing him instantly.
- Dr. John G. Kyle came to Bellbrook in 1847. During the cholera epidemic of 1849, he labored constantly for three weeks without ever removing his clothing to sleep.
- Dr. Edwin Magann was listed as a doctor at Bellbrook in the 1860 census. He married Ellen Stake, the daughter of John M. Stake.
 - Dr. Mulford is listed in a county history as a physician at Bellbrook.
- Dr. Mary McBride, an elderly lady, practiced in Bellbrook a few years in the late 1930's. Her home and residence was at 42 South West Street (John E. Cook's).
- Dr. Olive Morris, a native of Sugarcreek Township, graduated from Iowa State University before 1880. She practiced briefly during the 1880's.

Dr. W. S. Ritenour was in Bellbrook from 1911 to 1921, except when he was in the Medical Corps during World War I. He married Grace Turner of Bellbrook. Mrs. Ritenour still resides at 31 West Franklin Street.

Dr. John Turnbull located in Bellbrook in 1866 after serving as a surgeon in the Civil War, and lived here until his death in 1904. His home, on the southwest corner of Franklin and West Streets (43 West Franklin) is presently the residence of Orbin Roller. His office was in a small building a few feet west of his home. He was elected to the town council and school board a few times.

Dr. A. N. Vandeman, the former well-known physician at Spring Valley, was located briefly in Bellbrook during World War I.

Dr. John Thesing, D.O., and Dr. John Herzog, D.O., opened the present Bellbrook Clinic at 28 East South Street in October, 1956. Dr. Herzog left in 1959 for further study. Dr. Thesing and Dr. Ralph Keating, who came in 1963, are the present physicians.

Nathan B. Stipp is the first known dentist in Bellbrook. A native of Sugarcreek Township, he learned the painting trade in Bellbrook. Later he studied dentistry and practiced some in Bellbrook before moving to Xenia in 1849.

Dr. C. L. Laishley is the first dentist in Bellbrook within memory. He opened offices in the Bell-brook Clinic in 1960 and moved into a new addition of the clinic in 1963.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Like all communities, Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township have had a fire problem from the moment the first buildings were erected. The cabins, all of wood, some even to the door latch and clay-lined fireplace, and clapboard roofs certainly invited stray sparks to start a conflagration. Ironically, as the buildings have been constructed of more fire-resistant material, the more organized and efficient the methods of fighting fires have become.

After Bellbrook was incorporated, fire equipment was thought necessary and on August 11, 1836, the council ordered that John R. Dinwiddie be allowed \$23.12½ for fire hooks, ropes and ladders. There is no mention of buckets; it may be that everybody was supposed to grab his own and run. This equipment was housed in the south end of the log Methodist Protestant Church and was transferred to a new brick structure, which replaced the log building in 1842. According to the council minute books, some buckets and ladders were purchased about every decade. Incidently, some of the buckets had round bottoms so they would not be stolen. There may have been some type of fire fighting organization, but the minute books don't mention any such group. An article in the Bellbrook MOON of January 13, 1904, describes the problems of fire fighting.

FIRE!

"Every fire in Bellbrook is followed by a great deal of talk about better fire protection for the town. It always ends in talk. Talk is cheap. It doesn't cost anything. There the matter ends until the next fire. Then it is all talked over again with the same result. There is not a fire bell, an engine, a cistem, or even a fire extinguisher in town. We have a few ladders and a few buckets. The ladders are kept in one building and the buckets are piled up in another building in another end of town. Half of the people don't know where either the buckets or the ladders are to be found. All the people ought to know where they are, for all the people are fire fighters when occasion requires, there being no regular fire department. After a fire is located then the buckets and ladders must be located. Then there is a rush for the buckets and another rush for the ladders. When they are found, men must be found to carry them to the fire. It requires half a dozen men to carry the buckets and a man to each ladder. All this takes time, and nothing is more precious than time at a fire. A little sense and system would simplify matters. A ladder wagon should be procured and all the ladders and buckets attached to it, ready for instant use. Two or three men could then take the whole apparatus to the scene of the fire without loss of time. The fire-fighters of Bellbrook work like heroes. They do all that mortal men can do, but they can't do any more than their means allow. Provide the proper means, and the boys will do the rest.

Another thing that Bellbrook needs is a fire bell. The man who discovers a fire at night has to run up and down the streets giving the alarm. People have to sit up in bed a long time and listen to determine whether it is a fight, a fire, or a drunken hoodlum yelling on his way out of town. Everybody could hear a fire bell, everybody would know what it meant, and everybody would get up in a hurry and put on some clothes and go help put out the fire."

Nothing was done to remedy the situation until after the fire of 1919, although a small low lean-to-had been built on the south side of Crowl's livery stable on North Main Street to house the ladders and buckets during this period. After this fire, which destroyed eight buildings on the northwest corner of Main and Franklin Streets, the question of purchasing fire fighting equipment was discussed. Four years later, in 1923, a double-tank 35-gallon portable chemical Fire Engine No. 60 was purchased from Obenchain-Boyer Co., of Logansport, Indiana, for \$625.00. This little machine had two tanks filled with soda water, a chemical was added and the resulting gas created pressure in the tanks, forcing the water through a 50 or 100 foot hose to the fire. As soon as one tank was empty, the other tank was put into use and the first one was refilled. It was mounted on a cart with two wooden wheels and could be towed behind a car or pulled by a small group. It was very effective if a fire had not made much headway.

After 1927 or 28, it was sheltered in a cement-block building on the site of the present firehouse on West Franklin Street. The Mayor's office and council meeting room was in the rear.

This little machine along with buckets and ladders was used until 1943, when a 1927 fire truck, with a 200-gallon water tank but no pump, was purchased. A pump was soon added and the two chemical tanks were mounted. They saved at least one house.

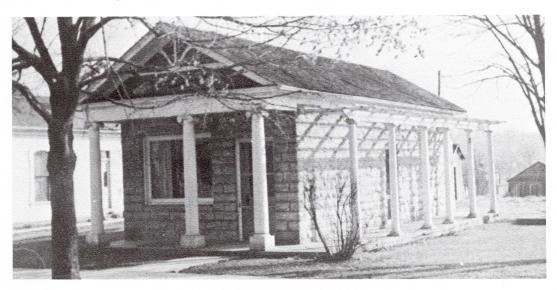
Howard Penewit, who was employed as a fireman at the Frigidaire plant, organized a Volunteer Fire Company in 1946.

After a change in state laws allowed two or more governmental units to combine to form a fire department, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Township Fire Department was organized in 1949 with Howard Penewit as chief.

A bond issue was passed, the old fire house was torn down and the present building (much larger than the old one) was erected in 1950. A fire truck with a 1949 Chevrolet truck chassis was purchased. Since then equipment has been added. A resuscitator and a water tank truck was purchased for the department by the Lions Club. An emergency panel truck, an ambulance, firemen's uniforms and other equipment have been furnished by the firemen themselves who held ice cream socials and other fundraising events to raise the required money. A new American LaFrance Engine mounted on a Ford truck was purchased in 1965. It cost \$18,000 and the money was raised by a tax levy.

LIBRARY

There are references to a library in the old papers and in Dill's history, published in 1881. Dr. John Turnbull was named as president of the Bellbrook Library. Where it was or how many books it had is not known and it must have passed into oblivion, for an article appeared in the June 15, 1904, issue of the Bellbrook MOON urging the formation of a public library. The article reported that a library could be started under very favorable auspices. One well-wishing lady had generously offered to donate money or books, a young lady had volunteered to serve as librarian without pay, and a third lady agreed to furnish a room free of charge. "If we are not willing to found a library upon these conditions, the case is hopeless," the MOON opined.



Winters Library - 1939

Maybe this article ignited a spark of interest, for a Sugarcreek Township Library Association was formed and controlled by the Loyal Citizens League of Sugarcreek Township. This organization transferred all its books, fixtures, etc., to the Sugarcreek Township Trustees June 2, 1906. From all indications, the old part of the present building was used until it was enlarged in 1964.

The original building was built for a short-lived bank in 1901. Jonathan Winters, a Dayton banker, who had a summer home (the present home of the Seymour Dunhams, corner of High and West Streets) at Bellbrook, bought the building and gave it to the community for a library. This Mr. Winters was the grandfather of the nationally known comedian, Jonathan Winters. Since 1944, the library has been operated by the Greene County library system.

TOWNSHIP HOUSE

Carry Nation once (October, 1904) indignantly liberated a hapless horse from his bearing reign at the hitching post, then stalked in to deliver one of her celebrated temperance lectures — to the wrong people, according to the Bellbrook *MOON*.

There were medicine shows, singers, musicians, social events and, in the early days, a few basket-ball games. One would hope, though there is no record, that a Shakespearian actor or two had trod the boards on the stage that is no more.

Thus, the historic appearance of the Township House is no deception; it has been theatre, platform, and meeting room for eighty years of history.

The April 9, 1884, issue of the Xenia TORCHLIGHT reported that the voters had approved the proposed Township House with 188 "yes" votes and 96 "no's.." Other issues carried the news that Harmon & Grimes of Bellbrook had been awarded the contract to build the Township House at their bid of \$1740.00. It was to be completed by December 5, 1884. The January 2, 1885, issue of the Xenia SEMI-WEEKLY GAZETTE announced that "the Township House is completed and a fair will be held from New Year's eve until the following Saturday night. The proceeds will be used to buy scenery for the stage. Our nice little hall will have a capacity for seating about 450 people." Stone sidewalks were placed in front in 1886 before the Commencement, later that year, of the first class to be graduated from Bellbrook High School. It was described as being held in "our nice little opera house."



There has been no major change in the front of the building during the years. The little room to the left was the trustees' meeting room until recently. It is currently occupied by the Police Department. The stairway to the right led to the balcony, now the meeting room of both the trustees and Bellbrook town council. The main room or the auditorium, the same size as today, was heated by two pot-bellied stoves, one on each side. The people next to the stoves would roast, while those next to the door huddled against the cold. The small room was heated by a smaller coal heater.

The opening of the raised stage at the north end was about the same size as the present alcove. Scenery was painted on a curtain that rolled down from the ceiling. There also was a curtain with advertising of local merchants and a notation to the left side asking the ladies to remove their hats. A door led to the stage at each side.

The seats were of a theater type with four or five seats fastened together, making a section that could be slid to one side for storage. The seats had metal arm rests and folding seats.

The appearance of the interior changed little until July, 1961, when the stage was removed and the rest rooms were installed. The cement-block storeroom was also added to the north side for housing trucks and other township equipment in 1961. The township ambulance is housed in this area.

This building was used as a Township High School for years and other classes were held here at various times when the school buildings were overcrowded. It has been the setting of civic and other meetings, bake sales and bazaars, and in later years, boy scout meetings and elections. After the school auditorium was built in 1925, most plays and large meetings were held there.

Since the remodeling, when the pot-bellied stoves were removed and a more efficient heating plant installed, the building continues to have its share of activities. Elections are still held here.

Our "nice little hall," which probably could share some very interesting secrets, is still with us and no doubt will serve the community as a gathering place for many years yet to come.



THE MUSEUM

When the museum was built or who built it is not known. Court records on this lot are clouded. In 1825, apparently the first year lots appeared on the auditor's tax list, this lot was valued at \$120 when many lots were valued at \$7 so it is reasonable to suppose there was a house on the lot at that time. The auditor's tax lists do not indicate the owners of many properties in Bellbrook. Evidently they didn't care to know who owned the property as long as the taxes were paid.

There have been some queries, "why such a little building for a museum?" "Did someone of importance live here?" The answer is that the whole house and lot compose a museum piece. The main section is of log construction. The fireplace has been removed as it was in many old houses. The logs have been covered with siding as many were. There have been additions as there were to most of the first dwellings. It is situated on the lot corner as nearly all the first houses were, leaving room for a barn, a wood shed, and a garden on the rest of the lot.

This marvelous old house, donated to the village by Mrs. Raymond Brock, Sr., in 1965, has watched Bellbrook's history. It stood opposite the Clancey Tavern and the Magnetic Springs Hotel. It was there as oxcarts on the Pinckney Road gave way to buggies on Main Street. It saw Dr. Hook's horseless carriage sputter up the hill and must have blinked as the Red Rambler streaked down. It has survived spectacular fires, termites, and the advance of progress. It is not only a monument to history, but a knowing, if unrevealing, old veteran.

POSTAL SERVICE

The present Post Office, located at 36 North East Street, was the first Bellbrook building erected exclusively as a post office. All prior offices had been in rented quarters of other buildings. The present building was dedicated July 22, 1962, and for that dedication Roland Kinder compiled a history of the local post office. Much of this article is taken from Mr. Kinder's history.

During the first years, Bellbrook is thought to have been on a route that delivered mail to various towns weekly by horseback.

In 1829 there is a reference to stage travel on the Great Eastern Mail Route from Cincinnati to Baltimore, passing through Xenia. There are also accounts of mail being delivered to Bellbrook weekly by horseback on a route that started at Xenia and stopped at various hamlets. It is probable that the mail was delivered to Bellbrook from Spring Valley when that town had become firmly established after the railroad was completed in the 1840's. In 1883, John Hurley started daily mail service between Bellbrook and Spring Valley.

After 1900, the area around Bellbrook was served by rural free delivery routes from Spring Valley, Waynesville, Xenia and Dayton. In 1957 the first rural route out of the Bellbrook office was started in the area of Sugarcreek Township which had been formerly served by rural routes out of Spring Valley and Waynesville.



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As of February 10, 1966, the local office employs twelve people. There are 343 family homes and 27 businesses in Bellbrook. One thousand twenty-eight family homes and 4 businesses are served by mounted carriers, and rural route serves 224 homes.

A list of Postmasters and dates of appointments from records in the national Archives follows:

James Clancey William Edwards William Bell William H. Grimes Robert E, Patterson Silas Hale George T. Pierce Alfred Loy Eby N. Barley Alfred Loy John T. Finley Roy K. Black Harry M. Turner Ethel Turner Carl F. Schwartz Oliver Wendel Hook Paul Spitler

April 29, 1817 October 13, 1819 September 21, 1830 June 16, 1840 July 10, 1841 February 24, 1855 March 31, 1886 May 20, 1889 August 22, 1893 July 31, 1897 September 6, 1901 March 6, 1908 September 4, 1909 February 17, 1918 March 7, 1922 November 1, 1947 July 12, 1962

Mrs. O. W. Hook (Dorothy Crowl Hook) has been associated with the Bellbrook Post Office in some capacity or other for nearly forty years. Mrs. Hook began her training under Mr. Schwartz as a helper in 1923. Later in her career she became the first official substitute clerk, the first career clerk, and the first regular clerk. She also served as Acting Postmaster upon the passing of her husband. Mrs. Hook was the first salaried employee under a postmaster. She retired in 1964.

POLITICS

During the nineteenth century, politics provided the welcome diversion of campaigns, parades, celebrations, fights, and brawls. The largest rallies were staged more than a century ago. The Xenia paper tells of an inaugural celebration for Andrew Jackson at Bellbrook, March 4, 1829. A committee had raised a splendid hickory tree pole in the center of the village. Sixty-six feet high, it was decorated at the top, where the natural branches had been left intact, with a crown of evergreens. After listening to a speech at this place, the citizens marched to the tavern of William Morris, where an excellent dinner had been prepared by Mr. Morris. Several toasts were offered and at night the village was brilliantly illuminated.

It was the custom to erect poles for the candidates. The Democrats used hickory as a symbol for "Old Hickory," Andrew Jackson; the Whigs, ash poles for their leader, Henry Clay, who resided at Ashlawn at Lexington, Kentucky. When James K. Polk was a candidate in 1844, the local Democrats used pokeberry stalks to symbolize their candidate.

The Harrison-Tyler campaign of 1840 was the first of the intensive campaigns with huge parades and candidates speaking before large crowds. Along with its slogan, "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," it was known as the "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" campaign. General William H. Harrison, who had defeated the Indians at Tippecanoe, Indiana, in 1811, was affectionately called "Old Tip." The Log Cabin and Hard Cider theme was to indicate Harrison's poorer circumstances than Van Buren's. Log cabins and barrels of hard cider were mounted on wagons and hauled to rallies.

To enhance a Harrison rally, the Bellbrook Whigs hewed a dugout canoe, forty feet long, three feet wide and two feet deep, out of a poplar log. There were seats for twenty-four girls and red, white and blue stripes were painted lengthwise on it. Decorated with flags and mounted on a long wagon pulled by six horses, gaily festooned and with bells on, it passed before Harrison in the parade at Dayton.

The largest political rally in Bellbrook was during the 1856 campaign of James Buchanan and John C. Fremont for the presidency. Fremont was the first presidential candidate of the new Republican party. The Xenia TORCHLIGHT of October 1, 1856, reports that the Bellbrook meeting "was another glorious demonstration for freedom." There were "8,000 to 10,000 free men in council." There were bands from Xenia and Paintersville and "not less than 200 ladies and 600 men on horseback," the

parade being two and a half miles long. Fremont clubs attended from all the surrounding towns. The chief speaker was Hon. Salmon P. Chase, Governor of Ohio.

The size of the crowd was probably greatly exaggerated but still a huge crowd for a town of 500 people. There have been rallies and speeches ever since but, with the great circulation of newspapers, the radio, and now television, no more than tokens of those that animated the last century. Victory jollifications continued into the forepart of the twentieth century. The winners lighted bon fires, piling on boxes and boards until the flames were higher than the trees, fired guns, and "shot the anvils." This term described the placing of gun or blasting powder between two anvils and firing it. The resulting explosion sounded like cannon fire.

Bellbrook and Greene County voted Whig until 1856 bestowed the Republican Party, to which the area has been faithful throughout the rest of its history. In fact, not a single Democrat was elected to county office during the 80 years between 1856 and the Roosevelt landslide of 1936.

BELLBROOK GRANGES

There have been three granges in the Bellbrook community. Dill's history, published in 1881, tells that the Grange was organized in 1874 and "is now in but moderate prosperity."

In 1912, Magnetic Grange No. 1847 of Bellbrook was organized with four teen men and ten women as charter members. The meeting place was the Jr. O.U.A.M. Hall. The Grange engaged in cooperative purchasing of twine, coal, fertilizer, seed and fencing. Meeting programs included music, poetry, group discussions and debates. There were social occasions such as box and watermelon socials, masquerade parties and installation dinners. They were interested in community affairs and helped the Memorial Society in the Memorial Day Programs.

This Magnetic Grange revived the Farmers' Institute which had been inactive for a time. They secured committees, speakers, a place to hold the programs and the women of the Grange served the meals for the two-day sessions.

Interest declined and August 28, 1923, those members at the meeting voted that all bills be paid and that the Grange temporarily disband.

Bellbrook Grange No. 2702 was granted a charter April 1, 1944, with more than ninety charter members. Meetings were held in the present Coy building until 1954, when the meeting place was moved to the annex of the Sugarcreek United Church of Christ. Juvenile Grange No. 711 was organized in 1944 and apparently discontinued in 1945.

The greatest single project of the present Grange has been to build a Grange Hall. A program of agricultural projects was begun in 1946 and each year acreages of corn and wheat were planted and harvested by the men of the Grange while the women provided food on all work days. All members of the Grange have helped serve lunches at auctions with the profits going to the Grange Hall project. In 1964, land was given for the Grange Hall, construction was started January 28, 1965, and the first meeting in the new building was held September 8, 1965. A junior Grange was established in 1965.

There have been many community-service projects such as programs for the Greene County Home for the Aged, Equipment for Happy-Times School, carrying out the Cancer Drive in the Township, sponsorship of Senior Girl Scout Troops, presentation of American Flags to four Girl Scout Troops, filling decorative flower urns at the Bellbrook Cemetery, and planting or harvesting crops where difficulties have touched a family. On March 22, 1961, the Grange voted to sponsor an Explorer Post for older Boy Scouts. The Grange has furnished both the leadership and the meeting place for these young men. Numerous awards have been earned for this Community Service work.

THE BELLBROOK AREA CIVIC COUNCIL

The Bellbrook Area Civic Council came into being in February, 1964, when a constitution was approved at a community meeting. The purpose of BACC is to promote citizen participation in the affairs of Bellbrook, Sugarcreek Township and the Sugarcreek Local School District.

BACC projects include a community directory, starting a local newspaper, the historical committee, exploring the problems in incorporation or annexation, of sewers, water systems and parks.

All BACC meetings are open to the public. The council meets at 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the township house.

Present officers are H. Max Davis, president; David Titsch, vice president; Mrs. Stanley Pitzer, treasurer; Mrs. Herbert Almand, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Gooding, corresponding secretary.

TWO CASES OF HOMICIDE

On February 20, 1858, Andrew Kirby stabbed John Stanton with a butcher knife. The house of Mrs. Cusic located on South East Street was the scene of the stabbing. Kirby immediately gave himself up to authorities. At the trial Kirby was defended by Thomas Corwin and others, but was sentenced to a life term in the penirentiary. Kirby thought Stanton was paying too much attention to Mrs. Kirby.

John P. Ramsey shot Michael Settler July, 1905, wounding him seriously. Settler lingered until August 25, 1905, and Ramsey was immediately charged with murder in the second degree. He remained in jail until he raised \$8000 bond. Eighteen months later Ramsey was tried for murder and the verdict was not guilty, which was unpopular with most of the Bellbrook people.

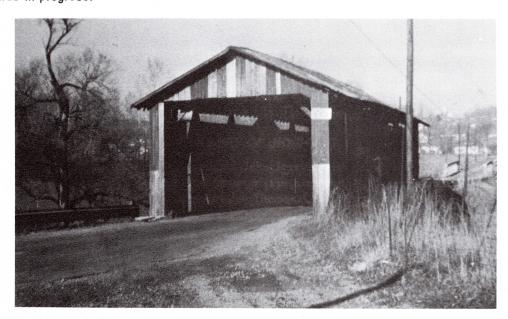
The reason for the shooting was an argument over a stolen or missing minnow bucket. Ramsey thought some boys had stolen his minnow bucket and while trying to find out, Settler said 'they are not the only thieves,'' meaning that Ramsey had stolen some guinea eggs from him.

Ramsey was quite a character, having been arrested for burglary in Valpariso, Indiana. His nickname was "Bunco" for he had pulled bunco games on various people. He was known as a gambler in other cities than Bellbrook. In 1893, he gave a series of lectures on the evils of gambling, mostly in churches in this area of Ohio. Ramsey owned a farm on Ferry Road now owned by Mrs. Harry McCoy. For some time he raised asters here for the Dayton market and also raised chickens to lay eggs. One year he bought old horses and would cook their meat to feed the chickens. The smell of this cooking horse flesh nauseated the people of Bellbrook and when he brought the eggs to town to sell, the natives referred to them as "horse eggs." Ramsey died a penniless old man in 1936 and is buried in potter's field in the Bellbrook Cemetery.

COASTING

Coasting and sleighing have provided pastime for the younger set for many generations. Bellbrook was a great place to coast since the big hill north of town provided a 'straight shoot' to the bridge south of town. Young folks from the surrounding towns would come to Bellbrook for the adventure of coasting and racing with horses hitched to sleighs.

Stories tell how the bobsleds were made and how the runners were "greased" for a faster run on the hill. The reported speed was 110 miles an hour past the "square" and the journey ended near the bridge south of town. "Lookouts" were posted in the center of town to stop the traction car or traffic while a sled ride was in progress.



In January, 1922, a new coasting record for the old Schoolhouse Hill was established when the famous "Red Rambler," owned and piloted by John Lamme, crossed the first bridge and came to a stop eighteen feet from the covered bridge south of town. This run was 215 feet farther south than the record run made by this same sled five years earlier and 248 feet farther than the historic run made in 1879 by the Chase sled. Some of the passengers on the famous 1922 ride were: Carl Smith, Faunce Smead, Willie Webb, Lawrence Lamme, Russell Stockman, Benny Richards, Carl Glosser, Jesse Weaver, Carl Webb, Therle Hopkins, Richard Turner, Harold Sidenstricker and James Turner. The Red Rambler sled is still in existence today.

The hill was "iced" by pouring water down a strip in the middle to make for faster speed.

MILITARY SERVICE

As soon as there was a government of the Northwest Territory, military service was required of all male citizens between the ages of sixteen and fifty. This policy of required military training in times of peace was abandoned in 1844 after it had become an object of contempt. The militia, as this military organization was called, drilled at various places and times during the year. The days of drilling, called "muster days," came to be holidays. Great crowds of people gathered ostensibly to view the drilling, though there was also much drinking, carousing, and some brutal fights. Very little is known of our local militia except the fact that many local men held high military titles. General William Buckles, Col. James Snodgrass, Col. John James, Major Abner G. Luce, Major Daniel Wilson, Capt. John C. Murphy and others were known officers, all Sugarcreek Township men.

After Hull's surrender of Detroit in 1812, most every able-bodied male volunteered to repel the momentarily expected invasion of the British and Indians. Captains Amni Maltbie, Robert McClelland, John Clark and James Steele were thought to be local men who led companies during that conflict. It is supposed some local men participated in the Mexican War, but no names have come down to posterity.

Over two hundred of Sugarcreek's sons fought in the Civil War and Thomas Kirby was the highest ranked, being the Captain of Co. E.; 74 OVI Infantry.

The ladies of the community collected blankets, quilts, bandages and foodstuffs to send to the fighting men.

PEARL FISHING

About 1891 pearl fishing in the Little Miami River was a source of employment and profit for many people. The fishing season began about the first of June and continued until the water chilled in the fall. The equipment for pearl fishing were some old clothes and a slender case knife. The hunter worked along the shore in the shallow water, passing his hand carefully over the sand on the bottom where the mussels lay imbedded. The largest pearl, said to have weighed 2-5/8 carats, was sold to A. Newsalt in Dayton for \$60. Lesser finds brought from 25¢ to \$50. The average price was from five to twenty dollars.

CEMETERIES

In the early days of our township, most churches had burial grounds near their buildings, and some families had private plots on their own land. Most of these burial grounds and churches are still in existence today and furnish a valuable historical record. Churches that moved away or were torn down also usually moved the bodies to other burial grounds.

The Fallis Cemetery on Little Sugarcreek Road was not connected with any church and only a few stones remain in it today due to the efforts of vandals. The Carman burial grounds, southwest of Bellbrook where the Fairview Baptist Church is located, contains the remains of several of the pioneers of this community. Early settlers are also buried in the Middle Run Baptist Cemetery, south of Bellbrook. The Pioneer-Associate graveyard, north of Bellbrook, was connected with the Sugarcreek United Presbyterian Church, which once stood in the northeast corner of the cemetery. The church is presently located on the corner of Bigger and Wilmington Roads in Kettering. That historic cemetery also has several graves of our early settlers.

In 1850 the ''Bellbrook Cemetery Association'' was organized as a joint-stock company. Benjamin Bell, A. B. Hopkins, James Brown, Silas Hale, and R. D. Rowsey, were trustees, and John G. Kyle, Clerk. The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and incorporation concluded in the same year. The associa-

tion purchased four acres of land about half a mile north of town. This was laid off in lots and streets and otherwise improved for burial purposes. In 1958, two and one-half acres were purchased south of the original four acres.

The members of the Cemetery Board today are Waldo Elliott, President; Roger Turner, Secretary; Marion Bledsoe; Paul Thomas; and Harry Stephens, who is also caretaker of the cemetery.

At one time there was talk of building a cement walk from the village to the cemetery but this never materialized.

The first person buried in the "new" cemetery was Rachel Hopkins, who died January 7, 1851. The oldest stone is that of Joseph Tate, buried 1821 who was reinterred here later.

Stephen Bell, one of the founders of Bellbrook was reinterred here October 8, 1927, after having been buried in Springfield, Ohio, seventy-five years before. His first wife, Hannah Bell, died May 23, 1839, and is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery.

MEMORIAL SOCIETY

The Memorial Society was a flourishing organization around the turn of the century. Every Memorial Day was a full day of arranging flowers and honoring the dead. The program started at 8:00 a.m. with morning and afternoon sessions. At 7:30 p.m. the evening program began with the marching of the soldiers from the Kemp Hotel to the Town Hall.

SOCIETIES

The Xenia paper of February 22, 1827, reports a meeting of the Bellbrook Colonization Society in the M. E. Church. There was a Greene County Colonization Society and an American Colonization Society. They were organized for the purpose of colonizing the coast of Africa with free colored people of America.

The Xenia paper reported the Bellbrook Bible Society met August 23, 1854, in the M. E. Church. This society continued to meet for several years. They had committees collecting funds to finance the distribution of Bibles.

There are traditions of lodges and other organizations at Bellbrook at a very early day, but the only concrete evidence to substantiate these traditions, is that the I.O.O.F. appears on the auditor's tax list as owning the east half of lot 54 in 1850. The top floor of the three-story brick building is said to have been used for lodge purposes and it may be that the I.O.O.F. built this building.

The Knights of Pythias Lodge was in Bellbrook at a much more recent date than the 1.0.0.F.

Magnetic Council No. 231, Junior Order of United American Mechanics was instituted May 16, 1896. The lodge soon became very active with a large membership. They purchased the former "Eagle Exchange" tavern or the "Kemp Hotel" at the northeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets. They removed the partitions of the old hotel rooms for a large lodge room. The old building, being in poor condition, was razed in 1923 and the present brick was constructed. At this time the interest in the lodge had declined and they were unable to finish financing this building, although they continued to meet there until they disbanded about 1935.

The ladies auxiliary of this lodge was known as the Daughters of America. When it was started is not known.

LIONS

Late in the summer of 1946 a group of Sugarcreek Township men visited the Centerville Lions Club. This group and others then met in the Township Hall and, sponsored by the Centerville Lions, held an election of officers to serve through June of 1947. A day in March was set as the closing date for Charter Membership and 56 names went in to Lions International with the application for a Charter. The Charter was granted April 14, 1947.

The first meetings were held in the Township Hall. Later the place of meeting was shifted to the schoolhouse and then to the "Lions Den" in the basement of the Coy building. Meetings are now held in the Sugarcreek Elementary School.

The names of the 56 charter members are listed below with a * beside the names of those still active.

Irvin Snyder, *Lawson Ordean, *Roger Turner, Morgan C. Weber, *James Carback, *Phillip Coon, *Weller Haines, J. R. Penewit, *Herbert Meredith, Cury Stoup, *Wm. Penewit, George W. Moore, Robert Adams, S. J. Bean, David Barnet, R. K. Black, M. E. Barnet, John Black, Urban Barlow, Lloyd F. Banford, J. W. Cole, L. W. Coy, Jack Devlin, Donald Dunford, *Geo. C. Elliott, Clyde S. Gibbons, Harry Graves, Everett Gregg, O. W. Hook, A. R. Hornbrook, E. P. Howland, Paul C. Hunter, J. Gerald Hess, Thos. Hinkle, David Hodson, Jesse H. Huston, Lewis W. Joyner, Wallace H. Magee, *Frank E. Morris, *A. O. Michael, *Jesse Michael, Wm. C. Miller, Harry McCoy, Ray Miller, Robert Meredith, Robt. Penewit, Chas. Peterson, Raymond Sawtelle, Wm. R. Spitler, Clarence Smith, *Paul C. Spitler, *Jacob Scott, Clarence E. Wagner, Carl A. Wright, Henry B. Weller and Lawrence Weller.

The first president was Irvin Snyder; treasurer, Lawson Ordean; and secretary, Roger Turner.

Since 1948 – 49, the Club has sponsored an annual carnival, its only fund-raising project. The money has been spent for many worthwhile programs, such as sight conservation of the blind, summer baseball for boys, including Tri-County teams, and a winter program for girls.

The Lions also have installed outside lights at Sugarcreek Elementary School, bought a movie projector for school, furnished a room at Greene Memorial Hospital, given money towards the purchase of an incubator at the hospital, helped the doctors with the establishment of the Bellbrook Clinic, installed a drinking fountain in Bellbrook Park and tennis courts at the school, helped the sixth grade go to camp several different years, and bought a sousaphone, a movie projector and chairs for the school.

They have purchased sirens, lights, helmets, a chassis for a tanker truck, and a resuscitator for the fire department; and electric scoreboards for the new high school. They helped with the location of the bank in Bellbrook and supported zoning in the township. Their latest project was the gift of hats for the new band uniforms. The Lions have assisted with many other projects, all definitely helpful in their own way. They also have collected money for the March of Dimes for several years.

The present officers are Wm. Penewit, President; Sherman Lawson, Treasurer; Lyle Benham, Secretary.

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

The Ministerial Association of Sugarcreek Township has existed for about six years, and has provided a monthly occasion for comparison of ideas and theological discussion for the ministers who join it, and an organized base from which several community-wide interdenominational efforts have been launched. Among these have been Township worship services on Good Friday, Easter Sunrise Service in Bellbrock Park, Thanksgiving Day Service, occasional community song services, and the invitation of speakers into the community on subjects of Christian social concern. The association also provides means of assigning pastoral responsibility for new families moving into the community and plans at present to provide a rotating chaplaincy for the Township Fire Department.

Those ministers participating are:

Rev. Robert Brown, 4165 Fowler Dr., Bellbrook, O., 848-3571, Bellbrook Church of the Open Bible Dr. David Ensign, Payne Seminary, 372-7351, resident of Yellow Springs, 767-7749, Sugarcreek United Church of Christ

Rev. Charles Godwin, 163 Lower Hillside Dr., Bellbrook, O., P.O. Box 272, Belleview Baptist Church, 848-4311

Rev. Robert Ladwig, 2428 Periwinkle Dr., Bellbrook, O., 848-4157, Bethel Lutheran Church, 848-2775

Rev. Richard Morgan, 55 E. Franklin St., Bellbrook, O., 848-2909, Bellbrook Methodist Church

Rev. Andrew Newman, 2048 Clearview Dr., Bellbrook, O., 848-4478, All Saints Episcopal Church

Rev. Carl Robinson, 4433 Appleton Pl., Kettering, O., 299-9528, Christ Evangelical United Brethren Church, 885-5548

Rev. Kent Organ, 78 W. Franklin St., Bellbrook, O., 848-2254, Bellbrook United Presbyterian Church, 848-2378

BELLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

The Bellbrook Garden Club was organized October 29, 1941, with twenty-two members. It was affiliated with Ohio Association of Garden Clubs, Greene County Presidents Assn. and Regional Directors Club in 1944.

The club has had many worthwhile civic projects among them being the planting of three evergreens and placing the memorial stone in Bellbrook Cemetery for World War II veterans.

The Winters Library project started in February, 1948, when the club sponsored landscaping the grounds, planting trees, shrubs, and bulbs. Later an outdoor light and wrought-iron furniture and bird bath was added. Shrubbery was planted at the high school and elementary school building and a planter was filled inside the elementary school. The club annually maintains the necessary plantings at Winters Library and the memorial at the cemetery, also the planter at the Bellbrook Post Office. They also make corsages especially for Mothers Day and other occasions.

The 25th anniversary is being celebrated this year with twenty-five members at present.

HISTORY OF TUTTLE - MILLER POST NO. 761 THE AMERICAN LEGION - BELLBROOK, OHIO

The Bellbrook Post of the American Legion was formed upon the application of twenty-seven eligible members to the Ohio Department on November 27, 1964. A charter was promptly granted to the applicants.

The name of the Post was established as Tuttle—Miller, honoring Corporal Edward W. Tuttle who gave his life in World War I and Sergeant Paul Joseph Miller who gave his life in World War II. The Post was assigned number 761.

First officers of the Post were Dwight W. Barnett - Commander, Lowell E. Pickett - Vice Commander, Thomas L. Ferguson - Adjutant, Russell J. Faulkner, Jr. - Chaplin, Samuel J. Randall - Finance Officer, David L. Brown - Historian, Erwin K. Crossman - Sergeant-at-Arms, and Noble Land - Judge Advocate.

BELLBROOK MUSIC BOOSTERS CLUB

The Bellbrook Music Boosters started in March, 1961, with Mrs. Ernest Leasure as president, Mrs. John Tolnitch, vice-president, and Mrs. Jean Hammond, secretary. The Constitution Committee included Mr. John Tolnitch, Mr. Warren Daum, Mrs. J. C. Penewit, and Mrs. Morris Lyons.

In the five years, we have purchased some instruments for the band, paid for all the awards including the John Phillip Sousa award. We purchased robes for the chorus and with some help from the Lions Club we now have new band uniforms.

At present the officers are Mrs. Ernest Leasure, president; Mrs. Howard Jacobsen, treasurer; and Mrs. Morris Lyons, secretary.

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MINATURE

WILMINGTON PIKE AT BROWN ROAD

1844 PRICES

Judge Abner G. Luce kept a general store and hotel in the "Eagle Exchange" building on the northeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets. He received his title because he was one of the Associate Judges of Greene County at the same time he was a storekeeper. His account book, dated July 1, 1844 to October 27, 1846, is still in existence and gives the price of the items sold and the name of the purchaser who charged it. Below is a sample of the variety of items sold.

Coffee sugar butter fish salt cinnamon pepper	10¢ a lb. 6¼ and 10¢ a lb. 13¢ a lb. 6¼¢ a lb. 1¢ lb. 6¼¢ a paper 5¢ a paper; 10¢ ½ lb.	lard molasses eggs beans dried apples rice 3 nutmeg	3 lbs. 15¢ 62¢ a gal. 4¢ a dozen \$1.00 a bushel ½ peck 25¢ 6¼¢ lb. 6¼¢
suspenders mittens gloves pair boots pair shoes vest	10¢, 12¢, 37½¢ 25¢, 50¢, 75¢ 31¼¢, 87½¢ \$1.31¼, \$1.62, \$2.50 56¼¢, 87½¢, \$1.25, \$1.50 \$1.37½	bonnet stockings coat cravat palm hat	\$1.00 50¢ \$5.00 25¢, 37½¢ 37½¢, 75¢
muslin flannel calico casinet comfort silk	12½¢, 18¢ a yd. 37½¢, 62¢ yd. 15¢, 18¾, yd. \$1.00 per yd. 25¢ 85¢	drill alpacgo Irish linen gingham cambric	18¾¢ per yd. 18¾¢ per yd. 87½¢ per yd. 37½¢ per yd. 25¢ per yd.
castor oil vermifuge saleratus linamint peppermint salt peter cake soap cream of tartar	25¢ two bottles 18½¢ 8½¢ lb. 25¢ 6¼¢ bottle 6¼¢¼ lb. 6¼¢ 6¼¢ ¼ lb.	fish oil indigo calomel cream of tartar madder alum whiskey	25¢ quart 25¢ - 2 oz. 6¼¢ 1 doz. 37½ - 1b. 50¢ - 2 lb. 10¢ - 1 lb. 25¢ - 1 gal.
strap iron bar iron spring steel square iron round iron saddle tree iron	9¢ lb. 8¢ lb. 8¢ lb. 5¢ lb. 6¼¢ lb. 7¢ lb.	hub band iron small rod iron dandy tire iron ½ inch bar iron horse shoes	6¼¢ lb. 7½¢ lb. 6¼¢ lb. 7¢ lb. 6¢ lb.
spike nails 20 P nails 4 P nails tacks lamp black paint brush turpentine tar lead hinges 1 set plates 1 sett teas 1 lb. C.O. tobacco 8 plugs tobacco 1 lb. cut tobacco	61/4¢ lb. 5¢ lb. 81/2¢ lb. 121/2¢ gross 121/2¢ 62¢ 25¢ qt. 121/2¢ qt. 61/4¢ 181/4¢ pr. 75¢ 433/4¢ 371/2¢ 121/2¢ 10¢	chopping axe handle fork broom lamp tin cup pair shears cradling scythe tin bucket pad lock looking glass 1 ball candle wick 25 cigars 6 plugs V.A. tobacco	\$1.50 12¢ 87½¢ 20¢ 37½¢ 6¼¢ 37½¢ \$1.50 50¢ 12½¢ \$1.25 10¢ 8¢ 6¢
Spelling book First reader	10¢ 12¢	dictionary ½ quire paper	37½¢ 12½¢

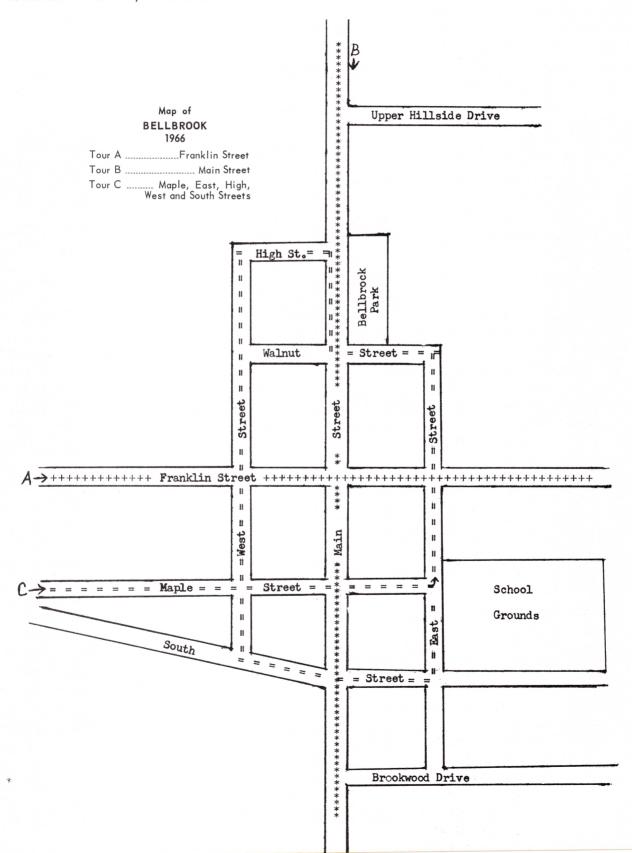
CONGRATULATIONS TO BELLBROOK ON ITS 150th BIRTHDAY

American Legion Post 761	
Sugarcreek Elementary P. T. A.	
Bellbrook Garden Club	
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Smith	
Mr. and Mrs. Ford Prescott	
The Sheldonian	
Phil Coon Painting Contractor	
Carolyn's Beauty Shop, Mound Street	
Pleska Realty, Inc., 7780 Dayton-Xenia Road, 426-2926	
Kneisly Smith Barber Shop, 1606 Haines Road	
Genes Market & Carry Out, 426-1451, 7790 Dayton-Xenia Road	Dayton
Alpha Seed & Grain Co., 426-0831	
Dr. E. E. Archdeacon, M.D.	
Dr. H. G. Kelso, M.D.	Centerville
Dr. A. V. Black, M.D.	Centerville
Ed Gifford's Phillips Service	Centerville
Far Hills Animal Hospital, 6941 Far Hills Avenue	Dayton
Dr. Thomas A. Thesing, D.O.	Centerville
Dr. Richard M. DeBard, D.O.	Centerville
The Chew Publishing Co.	Xenia
Krakoff's, Inc.	Xenia
Buckeye Cabinets & Appliances	Xenia
McDorman's	Xenia
Dr. T. G. Kuhn	Xenia
Tiffany Jewelry Store	Xenia
Xenia Bike Shop	Xenia
Dayton Power & Light Co	Xenia
Glasco Advertising Products	Middletown
Bellbrook Eagle Boosters Club	Bellbrook
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Saunders, Mark and Scott	Bellbrook
Bellbrook Police Association	Bellbrook
The Art Club	Bellbrook
Bellbrook High School P. T. A.	Bellbrook
Shirts and Skirts C. C. L.	Bellbrook
William V. and Phyllis J. Gatzulis	Bellbrook
Belleview Acres Child Conservation League	Bellbrook
Janie's Beauty Shop, 848-7351	
B & C Tile Co., 848-7351	
Belleview Garden Club	Bellbrook
Bellbrook Winners 4-H Club	Bellbrook
Bellbrook Music Boosters	Bellbrook
Plain Dirt Garden Club	Bellbrook
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Spitler	Bellbrook
Twenty Belles C. C. L.	Bellbrook
Willis, Robbie, Edith, Ruth and Joan Holder	Bellbrook
Bellbrook Billiard Club	Bellbrook
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Whitt	
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Niehaus	Bellbrook
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Garbade	Bellbrook
Jim Parks	Bellbrook
Roland Kinder	

A WALK AROUND TOWN

To simplify our description, a map of Bellbrook with tours is printed. Tour A is Franklin Street only. To avoid endless repetition, only the numbers of the houses will be given and the street will not be mentioned each time.

We will try to describe most of the houses and buildings, past and present, in the old part of Bell-brook. Many have been added to, remodeled and moved back from the corner of the lot, so that some of the present buildings may have little resemblance to the originals while others have changed but little. An automobile is too fast, so let's walk.



FRANKLIN STREET - TOUR A

We will start at the west end of Franklin Street, west of the bridge. Little Sugarcreek Road at one time followed the private drive to the Ba-Te-Yo-Ca Camp grounds, continuing north and fording the creek several times before leaving the valley. Somewhere west of the present iron bridge was a tollgate house for the Dayton and Wilmington Turnpike. This was in use during a period of twenty years or more before and after the Civil War. Whether there was a bridge here at that period is not known. The present bridge has been widened and rebuilt in recent years. The narrow iron bridge that preceded it may have been the original. The bridge for the Dayton and Spring Valley branch of the Dayton and Xenia Traction Company was a very few feet south of this bridge.

The brick house overlooking the valley on the present Ba-Te-Yo-Ca Camp grounds is said to have been built for Henry Opdyke before he died in 1825. Stephen Bell built a waterpowered sawmill for Mr. Opdyke just west of the present drive. James Steele lived in the brick house and operated the mill several years before Henry Harman built the small frame house in the valley and operated the mill until it ceased operations before the Civil War.

From around 1910 to 1920, these grounds were known as the Fresh Air Farm. In fact, these words were painted on the barn in the valley, and disappeared just before the barn was torn down a few years ago. It received its name from the fact that a Dayton organization brought groups of underprivileged children to spend two or three weeks to benefit from the "fresh air." This organization built the original barracks and the dining room. This same site was later the location of the High-View Terrace, a well known dining place, featuring chicken and ham dinners, that flourished for several years after World War II.

Walking toward town, we approach the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dumford at 103, dating from about the 1870's or 80's. The large home of the Bledsoes, at 102, was built by James Seal about the same time.

The brick part of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Joyner at 92, dates back to before 1850. Before the Civil War, Reeder's Tin Shop was located near it. At 91, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ferguson was built about 1840 and was for a long time the home of Dr. J. R. Dawson. Between the homes of the Dumfords and Fergusons, there was a brick building used for both school and church purposes. The M. E. Church owned this property from 1835 until after the present Methodist Church was built in 1844.

Charles Davidson's at 79 dates back to the 1840's. At 78, the present Presbyterian Manse is thought to have been built before 1840. The Church has owned it since 1926. A Universalist Church built in 1847 was sold to the Presbyterians in 1857, and moved to a site on North West Street in 1890 to make room for the present Presbyterian Church. William Blackaby's at 71 dates back to the 1840's.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. John Werner at 65 may have been built as early as 1836 and was probably the Methodist Episcopal Parsonage from 1836 to 1856.

The tannery of Isaac Fallis was located to the rear of the Presbyterian Church on the present site of the warehouse of the Fernandez Artcraft Shop. The home of Mrs. Fernandez at 64 was built around Civil War time. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong Howland, their son Oscar and grandson Emerson had lived in this house at various times before the Fernandez' purchased it. The Bellbrook Academy, which burned in 1850, was located on this lot. It is thought the subjects taught here may have been similar to the later high school subjects, although Greek and Latin were usually taught in schools of this type.

There was a house at 58, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Austin, as early as 1832. The brick part at 56 was an early blacksmith shop and someone added a room connecting the two and converted it into a dwelling.

The old part of the library, at 57, was built for a bank in 1901. There had been a residence here before 1840. The home of Mr. and Mrs. John Black, at 50, was built by Henry Harman about 1832. It was, for a long time, the home of Jonas Peterson, who stored ice in a building on the rear of the lot. The residence of Mrs. Jesse Huston and Mrs. O. A. Berryhill, at 49, was built for Dr. David W. Bedinger after 1900. It is easy to tell the rooms used for his offices. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Orben Roller, at 43, may date back to 1832. It was the home of Dr. John Turnbull for years. His office, which stood a few feet west of this house, was moved and is now the house at 12 South West Street. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Hoop, at 42, was built for James Brown during the 1840's and the brick room was his office when he practiced medicine.

We cross West Street; on the northeast corner stands the Sohio Service Station, built in 1963. Two



Winters Library - New Addition 1965

dwellings were razed to make room for this station. The house on the corner was of log construction, which had been covered with siding. There was a large stone fireplace in the west end. It was occupied for many years by Robert E. Patterson, a shoemaker and a postmaster. On the east end of the lot was a frame dwelling which was built before 1840.

On the southeast corner of Franklin and West is the home of Mrs. Grace Ritenour. It was built by her father, John S. Turner, in 1888. At 23 is the home of Mr. Eugene Belden and Mrs. Daisy Lansinger which was built in 1884 as the parsonage for the Methodist Protestant Church. This brick church stood between the two houses and was torn down in 1934. Before it was built, in 1842, a log church stood on this site. The Bellbrook Branch of the Citizens First National Bank of Xenia, Ohio, was opened on May 10, 1957. It replaced a small frame house, the original part of which had been used as a shop and store room. From 1919 to 1940, it was the Bellbrook Exchange of the Ohio Bell Telephone Company with day and night operators.



The large brick home of Mr. and Mrs. David Barnet at 15 West Franklin was built for Benjamin Allen before the Civil War. Part of it may have been used for businesses, but it is thought to have always been a residence. Barnets added the store rooms in 1959 and now operate their television and appliance store there.



Benjamin Allen Home before the Civil War



Hardware Store in 1920



Inside of Hardware Store - 1915



Penewit Hardware Store - 1966

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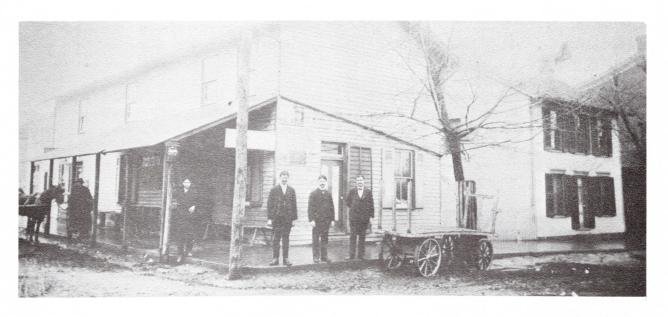
On the southwest corner of Franklin and Main is the Penewit Hardware Store. Henry Harman was paid fifty cents a day to built the old part of this store for Jeremiah Gest in 1828. Buchanon & Gest were advertising "upright spinners" in the Xenia paper in 1826 and there may have been a small building on this lot at that time. James Harris and Benjamin Allen purchased the business of Mr. Gest in 1838 and Mr. Allen in partnership with others continued in business until 1867. After that J. E. Kline operated a tin shop there during the 1870's and 80's. Barley Brothers sold dry goods and Eben Barley was the postmaster during the 1890's. Sullivan's Tin Shop and Borden's Tin Shop were there afterwards, followed by Carroll Barnard's, John Elliott's and Oral Hess' Hardware Stores. Since December of 1925, the Penewit Hardware has been located there. It was founded by J. R. Penewit and has been managed since 1960 by his sons, J. C. and William.



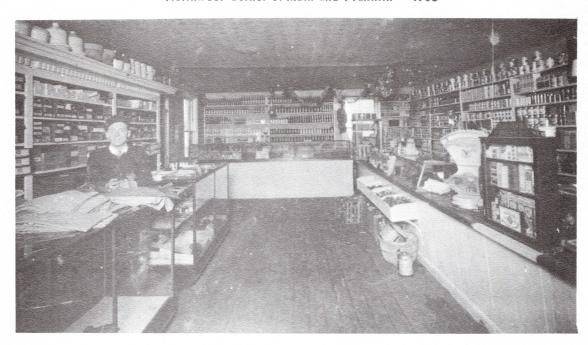
Before the Fire - 1917



After the Fire - Looking East



Northwest Corner of Main and Franklin - 1905



Inside of Schwartz Grocery - 1912

The night of April 30, 1919, fire destroyed eight buildings on the northwest corner of Franklin and Main Streets. Six were on Franklin and were comparatively small buildings. Just east of the bank was a small frame two-story house. Next to it was a tiny building used for the telephone exchange. Next was John S. Turner's grocery, a long narrow building, where he had been located since the 1880's. Next were two small store rooms owned by Joseph Myers, one used as a showroom for Model T Ford cars and the other as a storeroom for parts. Before that, one was an ice cream parlor and the other a meat market. These old buildings had been used for various shops and stores and dwellings. There are accounts of hatters, shoemakers, tailors, barbers, milliners and others being located in this area in the past. Calop Stratton, a silversmith, was located here before the Civil War. The frame building on the corner was a larger two-story building said to have been built in 1849 by Samuel Berryhill, who died of cholera during the epidemic of that year. W. A. Hopkins had a dry goods store here from 1868 to 1888. Joseph Myers operated a grocery here from 1896 to 1909 when Carl F. Schwartz assumed control and continued in that business until 1923. It was in his grocery the fire started. He immediately built a stucco building, occupied at the present time by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Barnet and Barnet's Colonial Shop. Mr. Barnet bought the grocery in 1929 and continued in that business until 1958. His son Dave, who helped in the store after

1936, began selling televisions after they came on the market. The Barnet businesses have steadily expanded and in 1958 the grocery was discontinued.

The firehouse was built in 1950 succeeding a much smaller one built of cement blocks in 1928.



Barnet's Colonial Shop



Fire House and Equipment - 1966

EAST FRANKLIN

On the northeast corner of Main and Franklin is the Coy building. It was built in 1921-22 by the Magnetic Council of the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics. Due to a scandal in the national order of that lodge, promised financial help never materialized and the Junior Order was unable to meet its obligations. Charles Coy assumed ownership and completed the building. Later his nephew, Lawrence Coy, owned it and now Lawrence's son, Robert, is the owner. The lodge room was on the second floor, the business rooms on the first and storage rooms in the basement. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Bond, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wright and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Haines had restaurants and C. M. Holton, W. W. Tate, Stephen Bean, Carback & Morris had groceries in this building. Barnet's Shopping Center rented the entire building during the 1950's for the television, appliance and furniture sales, except for the Post Office which was located in the north room from 1923 to 1962. Since the remodeling of 1963, the Bellbrook Kitchen, a restaurant, opened in 1964; Russ Faulkner's Barbershop and Tropical Sans Beauty Shoppe are located in the same building.



Coy Building in 1939

This brick building replaced a historic old frame building, at one time known as the "Eagle Exchange" Hotel. It was built around 1830. There were many owners and operators of general stores in it during its lifetime and we can mention but a few. Abner G. Luce operated a general store here during the 1840's and somehow his account book has survived to this day. The variety of his stock and prices are interesting. Samuel Elcook was another proprietor who sold out to Isaac Dingler, the owner of the record-breaking pacer "Sleepy Tom" when he was a colt. Sleepy Tom was sheltered in the hotel stable, which was not razed until the 1950's. Mr. Dingler sold to George W. Kemp, who took down the "Eagle Exchange" sign in 1876. It was thereafter known as the Kemp Hotel. When Mr. Kemp retired in 1896, others operated it a short time but found it did not pay.

The store room was used by Jonas Peterson as a grocery and meat market around 1900 and his son, Orley, who now resides at 1796 Bledsoe Drive west of Bellbrook, continued to operate the store until 1918. The Junior Order bought the building some time after 1900 and had the partitions taken out between the hotel rooms to make a large meeting room on the second floor. The building was razed soon after 1920.

A two-story brick building adjoining it on the east was razed in 1964 to make room for a parking lot. Built before 1840, its occupants and businesses have been numerous and varied. James Hamilton had a grocery here about the time of the Civil War and Thomas Austin may have been here later. At times it was a residence. The upper floor was used as a meeting room and church services have been held there. In recent years Roy Black had a used furniture store there, Don Moore, a Carry Out, and there have been barber shops.

On the southeast corner of Franklin and Main, Richard Cunningham is said to have run a tavern during the 1820's. It was a small two-story frame building, which was moved east to make room for the brick building now known as the Sheldonian. It was razed in 1920 when it had become a delapidated old building. It was bought by John Hale in 1833 and in 1838 by his son Silas Hale who ran a general store there

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until his death in 1889. The present brick building was built around 1850. After the Hales quit business, a variety of enterprises were located here. School has been held in it, town council met here, the Bellbrook MOON office was here and its walls sheltered the post office much longer than any other building. Jonas Peterson had a meat market here around 1890; John H. Wright, a restaurant in the 1920's; and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Adsit, a restaurant during the 1930's and 40's. Since then Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wagner and Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Sheldon have operated variety stores with a soda fountain.



Built by Silas Hale - 1850



Dane Building built in 1961

The Dane Building, at 15, was built in 1961. There are office rooms on the second floor. Thrifty Boy Market, operated by Richard Hester, and Max Holland's Barber Shop are on the first floor; the basement is a storeroom for the market. The former home of William Tate, who lived here from 1920 to 1956, was moved to West Maple Street to make way for this building. This frame one-story house was built about 1840 for Silas Hale and was Mrs. Hale's home until about 1900.

The building at 18 East Franklin was built after 1900 and was used as a residence until about 1955 when John Remick added a store room to the east side and opened his real estate office. Later, Russ Faulkner operated a barber shop; Ray Peterson, a restaurant, and there was a beauty shop, too. The latest of its varied occupants is a Capitol Dry Cleaning Store.

Just east of the present Thrifty Boy Market was the home of Charles Miller, built before 1890. Later the home of the notorious John P. Ramsey, this house was razed in 1966. Mr. Miller's frame blacksmith shop, which stood a few feet east, was razed in the late 1930's. The house on the southwest corner of

Franklin and East Streets was the home of Herman Glotfelter from the 1920's to the 1940's. It was built after the Civil War and razed in 1964.

The building now occupied by the Thomas-Grushon Insurance Company, at 22, was formerly a small store room with a two-story frame house joined to it on the east. The house, which was razed in 1962, was built after the Civil War. Rolla Davis, Joseph Rusk and William H. Hodge operated groceries here before 1920. Charles Cramer had a pool room and lunch counter there in the 1930's as did Ed Atherton later. Barnets used it for a furniture sales room before Lowell Pickett operated a grocery there from 1959 to 1965.

Benjamin F. Allen's pork house, built around 1840, was located on the lot where the Township House now stands. The pork house was a large brick building used to cut up hogs that had been slaughtered outside the village. The hams, shoulders and bacons were cured with salt and the lard was rendered here. The Township House was built in 1884. The small house, at 30, dates from around 1850. The Herbst Pharmacy at the northwest corner of Franklin and East Streets was built around 1840 by Harrison Vaughn. In 1856, he deeded this lot to the Methodist Episcopal Church for \$1000 and it is supposed this house served as the parsonage for that church until 1876 when it was sold. David Hopkins and his daughter, Mrs. Della Hopkins Knox, were long residents of this house. Mr. Fred Herbst bought the place, remodeled it and opened his pharmacy in 1959.



Built 1840 by Harrison Vaughn

We now cross East Street to the two-story frame home on the northeast corner. It was built by Samuel H. Hopkins in the 1840's for a home and a shoe factory. Miss Mary Cusic served meals and had rooms for boarders in the early 1900's. Since then it was used as a dwelling until the Open Bible Church held services here starting around 1960.

The Methodist Church, on the southeast corner of Franklin and East Streets was built in 1844 and the classrooms were added in 1956. The parsonage, the next home east, has been owned by the church since 1957. It was built in the 1840's and Samuel Elcook, George Stoutzenberger and Heber Mundabaugh have been long-time residents.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dumford at 56 was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Multhup from before 1900 to 1950 and the Dumfords since that time. The barber shop of Samuel Bowles at 62 was built during the 1840's. The Bowles family have owned it since 1895. Sam has been a barber 42 years and nearly 40 years in this location.

The home of Roy K. Black at 63 was built in 1913 and has been his home ever since. Part of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Spahr at 68 is old. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Kemp remodeled it around 1900. Mrs. Mary Lamme lived here until 1930 and Mr. Spahr since that time. The home of Mrs. William Spitler at 69 was remodeled after 1900 by Calvin Lansinger, who lived there until 1934. Miss Wilhelmina Pugh and her

mother lived here many years before 1900. Mrs. Spitler and the late Mr. Spitler have lived here since 1952. The home of Mrs. Ralph Hopkins and the late Mr. Hopkins at 74 was probably built during the 1840's. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins lived here since 1900. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Meredith at 79 was built around 1903 by George Miller and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Erastus A. Maxwell for several years. Later Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Myers lived there from about 1920 to 1951. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Huston, at 91, was built about the same time.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hodson at 80 is a comparatively new house, built in 1952 for Horace Wright. The home of Mrs. Pearl Moore at 82 was built after 1900. Mrs. Indiana Pierce lived here during the 1920's and 1930's. The home of Miss Grace Myers at 90 was built after the Civil War. Mrs. John DeBarr lived here many years after her husband's death in 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hess, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Morris and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Harness also have lived here. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Turner was built in the 1840's. It was the home of James Curlett, Sr., until 1906, when Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Gibbons moved there. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have lived here since 1936. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wetzel lived here during the 1920's and until 1936.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bowles at 105 was built for William Holt during the 1840's. George W. Kemp and his daughter, Mary Kemp Hunt, owned it from 1896 to 1956. At one time there was a brickyard on this lot. The home of Mrs. C. C. Graf was built in 1940 and she and her husband, the late Carey Graf, have occupied it ever since.

The last home of the south side of East Franklin was built in 1928 for Allen Edwards and has had just two owners, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Crawford Gilliam. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Chapman. This lot was the location of the coal yard of William Hodge. Coal was shipped here by traction car and a siding allowed the cars to be unloaded on this lot.

DOWN THE HILL ON MAIN STREET - Tour B

Now let's start at the top of the hill on Main Street. Although these homes are outside the corporation limits, their location makes them a part of Bellbrook.

The house on the east side has been the home of Mrs. Russie Bond since 1927. G. W. Kent owned this property when both the 1874 and 1896 Atlases were printed. Next south is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Edgington. The Edgington family moved here about 1920. It is thought this house was built in the 1880's by Andrew Byrd. The brick home was built by Roderick D. Rowsey, probably more than a century ago. The Glenn Hodson family were the last who lived there many years.

Across the street at the top of the hill is the home of Mr. and Mrs. George McHenry, built around 1940. The water tower appeared in 1950. The brick home of Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Darbyshire was built in 1958. All homes on Upper Hillside Drive were built after 1955. At one time there was a brickyard in that location.

At 120 is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McDiarmid. This house is said to have been the home of Stephen Bell around 1820. Like all the old houses it has been repaired, remodeled and added to. Accounts in the Bellbrook MOON tell that Bell occupied this house and we assume they are correct; court records verify he owned the farm on which it was located. Jacob Haynes lived there forty years before 1900. Joseph Myers, Eugene Belden and Lawrence Coy have lived there since.

At 129 is the frame house that was occupied by John H. Cramer before 1900 and Frank Dinwiddie until about 1940. The schoolhouse was built in 1895, succeeding a three-room two-story brick school building built in 1854 and razed in 1894. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wilkie at 96 is an old home that Dr. Clancey may have owned at one time. During the excitement of the discovery of magnetic water in 1883, a competing firm drilled a well on this property and claimed to have struck a vein of magnetic water, but it was never developed. Brazil Lamb owned this property at that time. Mr. Kneisley Jewell, of the paint firm, Irvin, Jewell and Vinson of Dayton, owned it a few years and Mrs. Mary Tate lived there several years.

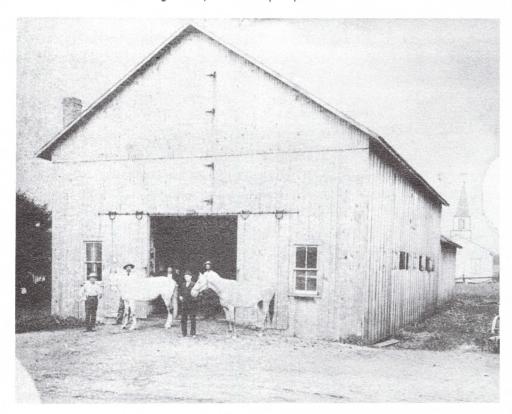
The home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hess at 84 is thought to have been built during the 1840's. Addison G. Tolbert, if not the builder, was one of the first owners. Mr. and Mrs. Hess have lived here since before 1920. The present home of Mr. and Mrs. James Dexter at 70 North Main Street is a more recent home, thought to have been built in the 1880's. Among several who have lived here were Mary Ann Duck and Mrs. and Mrs. Glenn Hess. Before the Civil War, Nathan Middleton, who was a shoemaker, owned both lots.

The brick and stone part of the former home of Mrs. Raymond Brock, Sr., at 62, may have been built in the 1820's. Jonas Dunham, a shoemaker, lived here from 1827 to 1870. His shop is thought to have been in this house and later it may have been across the street. Mrs. Josephine Tate lived here several years

after 1900. The former home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rogers, a frame house located on the corner of the lot at the northwest corner of Main and Walnut, was razed during the 1950's. There was a house on this lot during the 1820's.

The Magnetic Springs Hotel was located on the northeast corner and the Bellbrook Inn on the southeast corner of Main and Walnut Streets. This location is described under paragraphs on Magnetic Water, Bellbrock Park and Taverns. Brookside Garage was built about 1950 by Gerald Hess.

The Museum is located on the southwest corner. It is one of the oldest houses in Bellbrook. There is a paragraph elsewhere in this book about this building. The small dwelling south of it, built about 1900, was used for an embalming room and office by James Crowl, the undertaker. The present warehouse of Dave Barnet Appliances was built about 1900 for a livery stable owned by James Crowl. It succeeded another one which had burned but had the same general appearance. After livery stables were outmoded, this building was used for a feed mill and has been a warehouse for twenty years. It is said the first building on this lot was a double log cabin, with an open porch between.



Livery Stable - before 1895

The large gray brick house at 29 was the home of Ephraim Bumgardner from 1845 to 1878 and his widow until 1900. There was a home on this lot in 1832. The house has been built in three sections. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Purdom and then their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Rhonemus, owned it till around 1955. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hubbell are the present owners.

The home of Mrs. Ruth Williamson at 28 was built about 1850. Some of the owners were Ephraim Bumgardner, Elisha Soward, Amanda Ellis and Henry Weller. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Barnard at 21 was used as a commercial building at one time. It is thought to have been used by Ephraim Bumgardner, then for Buckles Bakery during the 1880's and 1890's. The Bellbrook MOON was published from here at one time, also. The Barnards have lived here much of the time since 1916. The Barnards also own the brick building at 19. This building is said to have been the blacksmith shop of William Russell, who built it about 1840. After Mr. Bumgardner died it was used by James Maloney for a blacksmith shop. Around 1910 it was the location of the Charles Wright Bakery and since then has been used as a warehouse, garage, grocery and for other purposes.

The house at 18 was built about 1850 by George Holloway, who was a saddler and harness maker. His shop was the small brick building adjoining. Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Spahr owned this property a long time.

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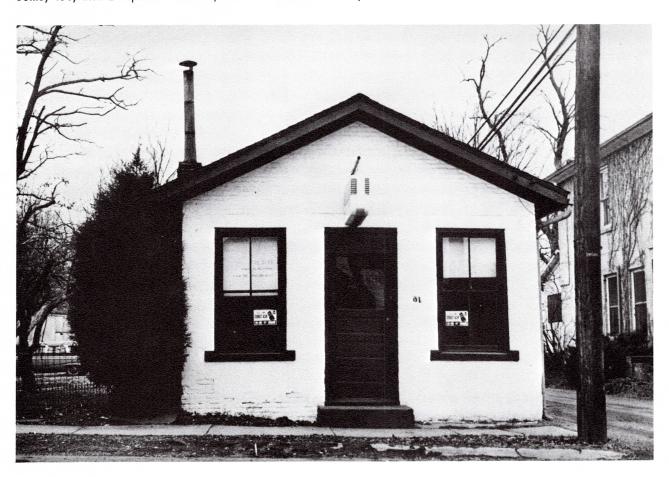
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Dr. Marion Shoemaker lived here during the 1920's and 30's. The shop at 16 has been used as a dwelling some, too, and Benjamin Robbins, our last harness maker, was located here.



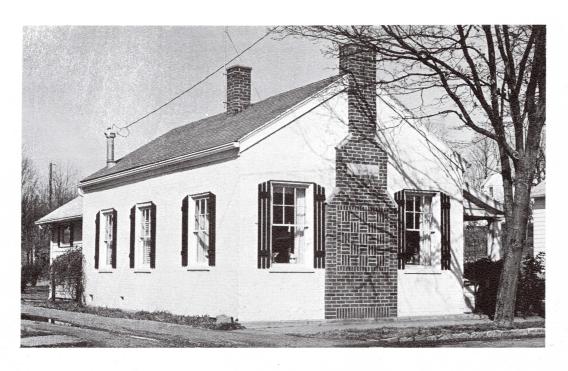
Harness Shop Used by Benjamin Robbins

The building at 15, now occupied by the Bellbrook Carry Out, was built about 1910 for a blacksmith shop. It was enlarged in the 1920's and was the garage of Glenn Hess and Kendal Black until the 1950's when it was converted into a carry out. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mockabee are the present owners. The home of Mrs. Dorothy Hook at 14 was built in 1919, replacing a three-story brick house which burned the night of April 30, 1919. The original building was built in the 1840's and for a time was known as the "Green Bay Tree Tavern," operated by Jacob Rike during some of the 1840's. There was a lodge room on the third floor reached by an outside stairway. Dr. George C. Hook acquired the property in 1893. Jeremiah Gest and Roderick Rowsey had owned it prior to this. John Stake's store adjoining the Hook residence on the south burned at the same time. A frame house, located on ground covered by the present Colonial Shoppe of Marvin Barnet, also burned that night.

SOUTH ON MAIN

We cross Franklin Street. The house at 13 was built by Harry Gibson about 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson have been the only family to live in that house. He built the smaller building on that lot about 1950. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Penewit at 21 was built around 1850. It is said there was a blacksmith shop there prior to this. John M. Stake acquired this property in a few years and it was his home until his death. Later it was the home of his son, John, until his death in the 1920's. Mr. and Mrs. Penewit have lived there nearly thirty years. The frame warehouse of Penewit Hardware was built about 1923.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wright at 22 was built about 1880 for Frank Buckles. Mr. Wright's garage, said to be the house that stood there previously, was moved to make room for the present house. Mrs. Emmaline Gregg lived there many years after 1900 and Mr. and Mrs. Wright have lived there thirty years. Before the Civil War, William Bechtell had a hatter shop on this lot. The house at 27 was built before 1840. Mr. Ed Penewit owned it several years during the forepart of this century. The house at 31 was built about the same time and was the home of Willis Lansinger about forty years.



Stake's Cabinet Shop - Built 1840

The brick part of the home of Mrs. J. R. Penewit at 28 was the cabinetmaker's shop of J. M. Stake and Sons in the 1800's. It is thought to have been built around 1840. The home of Mr. and Mrs. John Holton at 36 was built about 1850. John M. Stake lived here a long time and his son John many years after that. Between this house and Maple Street was a barn to shelter the undertaking equipment of the Stakes. The large house at 33 and 35 was built during the 1840's. Jacob Boroff lived here after the Civil War and John Penewit for several years after 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ryne lived at 50 from about 1908 to 1959. Their son Elwood (Rudy) now lives there. There was a house here before 1840 and a family by the name of Chase lived here several years before 1900. The home of Mrs. Harry Finafrock and the late Mr. Finafrock at 56 was built in the 1920's and has been her home ever since. There was a house here before 1850. Joseph Minnegan lived here many years before 1900 and it is said that the Minnegans had a saloon here at one time.

The large home at 57-59 was built around 1850. A family by the name of Duffy lived here before 1900. It has been a two-family apartment house for fifty years with many different families. The house at 65 is another one dating back to the 1820's. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mills moved here about 1840 and after his death, his wife and later his daughters occupied this home until the 1920's.



In 1820 was the Mansion House Tavern

The home of Mr. Jesse Weaver at 71 was built in 1913. Before this his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weaver, lived in a small house on this lot after moving here in the 1890's. Previous to this Mr. and Mrs. David Raper had lived here several years. The house at 72, which was razed March 9, 1966, was said to have been built around 1820. For thirty years, it was the "Mansion House Tavern." It had been repaired and resided, but is said to have been the original building. Lewis Raper lived here many years, before and after 1900. The house at 84 was built in the 1920's. Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Casey lived here twenty years and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hallihan for several years after them. The farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Bledsoe is within the corporation limits and was built about 1900 for William Cunningham. Esom Earnhart lived here around twenty years and Mr. and Mrs. Bledsoe since 1938.

MAPLE STREET - Start of Tour C

Let's walk back on Main Street to Maple Street and start at the west end. On the original plat of Bellbrook, there was no Maple Street. At some time, alley number three was widened by taking land off the lots on the north side to make the present street. At one time Maple Street was known as Hoop Pole Street. Why? The reason seems to be lost in antiquity. In more recent years it was known as Battle Street for it is said the residents were always fighting. In the last thirty years the name is heard less and less and it is called by its correct name, Maple Street.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bledsoe at 93 was the home of Daniel Sidenstricker many years before and after 1900. The home of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Moon at 92 is thought to have been built about Civil War time. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Underwood lived here several years after 1920. Before that A. L. Swallow and Clarence Lamb had lived here.

Reminiscences of James R. Hale tell of William Law's pump shop standing very near the creek at the west end of Maple Street. He was succeeded in this business by Ross Tamsett. Mr. Hale tells of the people fording the creek here and heading west.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Human at 86 was built in 1948 by David Hodson. The small cement-block house at 80 was built around 1950. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hodson, at 79, may have been built before 1845, for there was a house on that lot that year. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Webb at 72 was razed to make room for two new apartment houses in 1966. The Webb home was built before 1850. The home of Mrs. Reuben Webb and the late Mr. Webb at 71 was built in the 1840's and Mr. Webb's father, William, moved there in 1906. The home of Mrs. Ethel Johnson at 63 was built after 1900. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Whitacre, moved there in 1908. The cooper shop of James Cunningham was located on this lot around Civil War time. The present home of Mr. and Mrs. Dowey Bledsoe at 64 was the home of Mr. Cunningham at that time. It later was the home of George, Frank and Oliver Penewit.

At 58 is the home of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Black. There was a house there in the 1840's owned by Greenberry C. Rike. This house was long the home of Charles, Walter and Henrietta Killian, children of Charles Killian, Sr., who worked at the cooper trade in a shop located on that lot during the latter years of the nineteenth century. The home of Mrs. Sylvester Anthony and the late Mr. Anthony at 57 was the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Anthony, around 1900. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Bingamon is at 50. There was a house there in 1850 owned by Joseph Park. It was once the home of Morgan Fudge.

At the northwest corner of Maple and West Streets is the home of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Cook which was built in the 1840's. It was the home of Oliver Watson from 1904 to 1930, and before that it was the home of his father Jesse, a wagonmaker who worked in a brick shop across the street where Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Edgington now reside at 43. The Edgington home was built after 1900. At 33 was the second public school building in Bellbrook. It was used for this purpose before 1854. Now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peterson, it was built in the 1840's. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Meredith at 32 West Maple was built before 1850. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Meril Duncan at 25 was built in the 1930's. A house was on the lot where Mr. and Mrs. Ray Miller of 24 West Maple now live in 1860. The Millers have lived here since the 1930's. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Spitler at 12 was moved to this location from the present site of Thrifty Boy Market in 1961. The vacant lot is where the shops and sheds belonging to the John M. Stake cabinetmaking and undertaking establishment were located before 1900.

Mrs. Stella Dougherty has lived in her home at the southeast corner of Main and Maple since 1911. James Turner, a shoemaker, had his home and shop on this lot before 1840. Jacob Anthony lived here many years before 1900.

The former blacksmith shop of Henry Mills and his son, Charles, is the brick part of the home on the northeast corner of Maple and Main Streets. It was built about 1850 and a two-story frame carriage shop

was located just east of it. The house at 12 was built after World War II by Herman Glotfelter. The first part of the Ohio Bell Telephone Company building was built about 1940. The house at 15 was built after World War II. The house at 25 was built during the 1920's. At 28 is the first public school in Bellbrook, built in 1833. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rose at 31 was built before World War II by Earl Shahan.

NORTH ON EAST STREET

Let's turn north at East Street. On the corner at 42 East Street is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Swanstrom. This house was built around 1922 by Mr. and Mrs. Oral Hess. Mrs. Swanstrom, the former Mrs. Hess, has owned the house since it was built.

At 28 is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Volcha Holland and Alma Holland's Beauty Shoppe. The house was built by Alfred Loy about 1910.

One hundred years ago, Mrs. Lucretia Johnson, known as Aunt "Creasy," occupied a small one-story cabin on the vacant lot between Holland's and the Swanstrom home. She was for years the only colored resident of Bellbrook.

The house at 29 was built after 1900 by Joseph Belt. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lamme, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Spitler and Mr. and Mrs. Reid Keiter have been other residents. The houses at 20 and 24 were built in 1946. On this lot over one hundred years ago was a one-story log house with a frame addition. This is said to be the house in which Andrew Kirby stabbed John Stanton, causing his death, in 1858. At one time there was a barn south of the church on the lot now occupied by the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Doggett at 21. Their home was built by Scott Hopkins in 1948.

Crossing Franklin Street, we come to the Post Office which was built in 1962. At 39 is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Englehard. Part of the house was built in the 1840's. Michael Duffy was the owner, the maps tell us in both the 1874 and 1896 Atlases. The Englehards have lived here nearly thirty years.

WALNUT STREET

As we turn left on Walnut Street, we come to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stephens on the southwest corner. It was originally located on the site of Brookside Garage. It is not certain when it was built but it took heroic work to keep it from burning when the Magnetic Springs Hotel burned in 1893. In 1896, it was moved to its present location by Peter Muth to make way for the Bellbrook Inn. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Devlin at 30 was a barn until about 1920 when it was remodeled into an attractive home. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gail Borden of 1 Pavilion Lane was a dance pavilion until the 1920's when it was remodeled into another attractive home. These last two properties and Bellbrook Park were once the summer home of Michael Mullen, a councilman of Cincinnati. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hess at 11 was built after World War II.

HIGH STREET

As we come to Main Street, let's turn right and go up the hill to High Street. At one time High Street extended west to the present Ba-Te-Yo-Ca Camp Grounds, but it was never used beyond Dunham's home and has been legally abandoned in recent years. There were eight lots in Hopkins Addition north of High Street and Lot 1 contained all the land between Main and West Streets.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Puckett at 22 High Street was built about 1955. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hodson at 31 was built about 1956 by Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Bartley. The home of Mrs. Delilah Westwood at 34 was built about 1950.

WEST STREET

At the end of High Street we turn left on West Street. The large frame home of Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Dunham at 86 West Street was built by Miss Clara Winters about 1900. Her family was connected with the Winters Bank of Dayton. Miss Winters lived here during the warm months of the year and spent the winter at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton. Her colored chauffeur, Henry Clay, was a familiar figure on the streets of Bellbrook until about 1940. The Irvin Snyders and the Dunhams have lived there since. High on the northeast corner of West and Walnut is the home of Mrs. Katherine Black. It is supposed this house was built around 1820 and was owned by John and Dr. William Bell, sons of Stephen Bell. Dr. William Bell sold this property to Dr. William Grimes in 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Austin lived here many years before the Blacks.

Back the driveway to the west is the home of Mrs. Ina Black. It was the home of Miss Ida Weller and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Beatty Weller. Next at the southeast corner of West and Walnut is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lacey White. It was built in 1898 by James Crowl and was his home until his death in 1941. Since then it has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. White.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Parmer Stanley at 26 is said to have been built for Silas O. Hale around 1889. Across the street on Lot 60, now occupied by a barn, the former frame Presbyterian Church was moved about 1890 and was used as a barn to house the undertaking equipment of W. H. Morris until it burned in 1895. A building that stood on the northwest corner of the Sohio Service area near Franklin Street was used for church purposes by the Bellbrook Gospel Mission. Rev Harry Dale was the minister.

We walk across Franklin Street and as we told you before, the house at 12, having been moved there from Franklin Street, was the office of Dr. Turnbull. At 21 is the home of Mr. Ross Darbyshire and the late Mrs. Darbyshire. There is mention of a shop here before 1850. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Kemp at 29 was here in the 1840's. Mr. and Mrs. Allen Davis lived here many years. On the northeast corner of South and West Streets was a brick blacksmith and wagonmaker's shop. It was built around 1850 by John R. Dinwiddie and was used by various wagonmakers and blacksmiths until around 1900. Mr. Dinwiddie lived across the street in the home now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Trickler at 60 South West Street. This house was built around 1850.

We cross Maple and proceed to the west end of South Street. This street was dedicated to the village to be sixty-six feet wide but the west end seems to have been nothing more than an alley within memory of all but the oldest people. At one time many stables faced it but they have been replaced by garages. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burns live at No. 30 built for Warren S. Keiter about 1958.

We cross Main Street and go to the northwest corner of East and South Streets where the Bellbrook Clinic is located. It was built in 1956. The two doctors who occupied the new building were Dr. John F. Thesing, D.O. and Dr. John Herzog, D.O. They continued practice together until 1959 when Dr. Herzog left for further study. In 1959 Dr. C. R. Laishley, a dentist, opened an office in the east end of the clinic building. He and Dr. Thesing shared offices until September, 1963, when a new addition was built on the west end of the clinic. Dr. Laishley moved into the new wing there and Dr. Ralph Keating, D.O., set up his practice in the office vacated by Dr. Laishley. All three doctors are in practice here at the present time. This lot was the location of a saw mill powered by a steam tractor engine. The first owner was Matt Smith, who started the business before 1890. Frank Weaver became a partner of Mr. Smith before 1900 and when Mr. Smith retired, Mr. Weaver and his sons continued the mill until 1920.

Until 1956 there was a tobacco shed and corn crib belonging to the Claude Barnett farm on the south side of South Street, where the one-story homes are now located. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mackey at 66 was built about 1940. The school building complex was started in 1924. It was an open field up to that time. POSSUM RUN

> When the lowly sinking sun Gilds the glades of Possum Run, Pensively I homeward stray Through green lanes and meadows gay Wild flowers nod on every side Babbles Sugar Creek's clear tide; And the distant village bell Echoes up the dark'ning dell, When the lowly sinking sun, Gilds the glades of Possum Run.

Plaintive cry of whippoorwill Coming from yon wooded hill; Murm'ring brooks and twit'ring birds; Bleating flocks and lowing herds; Milkmaid's song and plowboy's call; Splash of silvery waterfall; Whispering leaves by zephrys stirred Chirp of cricket - all are heard, When the lowly sinking sun Gilds the glades of Possum Run.

Here, the grave yard on the hill With its tenants, calm and still, There murder, done for pelf; Here a crazed man hanged himself Underneath yon house, tis told

by J. L. Elcook

Hidden is blood-gotten gold, Here, too raved "King Alington," Reft of reason - wierd thoughts come When the lowly sinking sun Gilds the glades of Possum Run.

Yonder lonely thicket mark, Near it cold and stiff and stark. In a muddy gully drowned Poor old "Drunken George," was found. There, was found the skeleton Of a man to foul death done, Here a maiden-mother wild, Shrieking, drowned her new born child. When the lowly sinking sun Shone on wicked Possum Run.

But the 'grisly ghosts and spooks Haunt these lovely vales and brooks, Sweet it is to wander here, With the one we love most dear List with her, the hum of bees; See the birds mate in the trees: Watch the love-light in her eyes, Bright as stars in summer skies, When the lowly sinking sun Gilds the glades of Possum Run.



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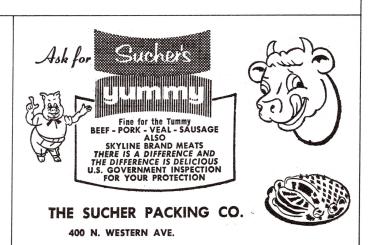
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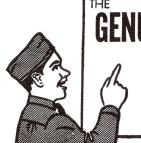
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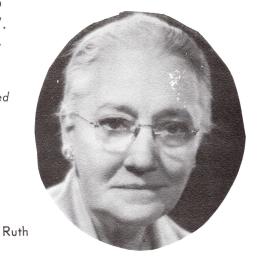
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